

U. S. Department of Justice

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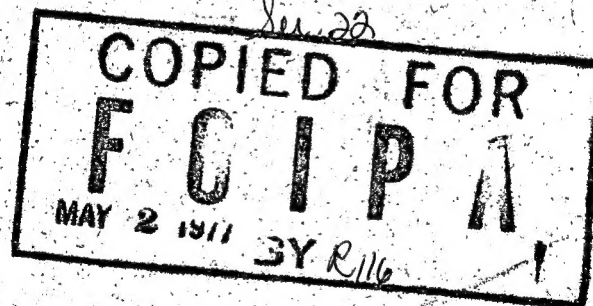
FEDERAL BUREAU

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08-05-2019 FOIA # 52770
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of

INVESTIGATION



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Serials 10-

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HQ-4590

Sec. 2

SECTION 2
SERIALS 10--

Washington, D. C.
January 23, 1941

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: COMMUNIST FRONT ORGANIZATIONS

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau teletypes dated December 16, 1940, and January 22, 1941, to all offices. Please be advised that since the latter part of November, 1940, this office has been gathering considerable information on the various Communist Front organizations by newly established Confidential Informants which has necessitated an unusual amount of investigative activity on the part of this office. For the past two months I have had three Agents working almost exclusively on this matter and the first report to be submitted in this connection is that of Special Agent T. W. Dawsey dated January 21, 1941, in the case entitled WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION, Internal Security-C, which is the local branch of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties.

Detailed reports are presently being prepared in connection with the American Peace Mobilization, The League of Women Shoppers and the National Negro Congress, and other organizations located in the District.

It may be stated that the files of the Washington Field Division contain practically no information of value concerning the above organizations and detailed investigations in connection with the organizations listed in Bureau teletype of December 16, 1940, are being made as rapidly as possible.

Very truly yours,

GUY HOTTEL
Special Agent in Charge

TWD:JCR

RECORDED & INDEXED

59 NOV 11 1941

100-4590-10
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 25 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

KRM:bc

January 28, 1943

Special Agent in Charge
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Your attention is directed to Bureau letter of January 13, 1941 in which you were instructed to submit a report concerning Mr. Hugh Miller and the organization, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

Reference letter pointed out your delinquency in this investigation, but the Bureau's files fail to indicate that this case has been given further attention by your office. The Bureau cannot countenance your complete disregard for its instructions. Matters of this kind, the urgency of which has been especially called to your attention, must receive attention as directed.

You are instructed to give this case immediate investigative attention and submit a report thereon at once.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

RECORDED

100-4590-11
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
JAN 30 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mrs. November Given Reasons For Dismissal

The Washington Committee for Democratic Action, which is demanding that Mrs. Margaret Ostrow November be restored to her typist job in the War Department, announced last night that she had been given a statement of reasons by the department which indicated she was reputed to be a Communist, and an associate of Communists.

The committee, in a letter to War Secretary Stimson, demanded "immediate reinstatement with full pay and restoration of accrued leave." Hugh A. Miller, committee chairman, commented in the letter: "To base the discharge of a qualified and efficient public servant upon the tattling gossip of ladies and neighbors is to mockery of the merit system in Federal employment and to subvert every American principle of fair play and due process."

Mrs. November said her name was on the mailing list of the American League for Peace and Democracy which was made public by the Dies Committee. She denied that she was a member of the league and said she had been damaged by the Dies Committee. Mrs. November worked in the mail and record section of the Engineer Corps.

No statement was available from the War Department.

The District Industrial Union Council (C. I. O.) last night adopted a resolution urging the full reinstatement of Mrs. November, and charged that her dismissal was a case of antiunionism and an interference with Government workers' right to organize.

124642
J. M. McGeary
McIntire

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MAY 5 1941

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WASH. POST

3-4-41

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CHANGED TO

100-262573-2

Bridges' Deportation Hit

The Washington Committee for Democratic Action, as a result of a panel discussion last night at the Lee-Sheraton Hotel, adopted a resolution denouncing deportation proceedings against Harry Bridges and the Dirksen bill to restrict activities of maritime labor unions. Henry Rhine, national organizer of the United Workers of America, C. I. O. affiliate, was moderator of the panel.

NOT RECORDED

INDEXED

100-4590-sub A

THE WASHINGTON EVENING STAR

February 28, 1941

NOT USED

100-4590-13+14

CHANGED TO

100-262573-3+4

KRM:bc

March 14, 1941

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

BY SPECIAL -
MESSENGER

Brigadier General Sherman Miles
Assistant Chief of Staff
G-2, War Department
Washington, D. C.

Dear General Miles:

Reference is made to the telephonic request made by Captain Frank C. Broadbent of your office of Mr. K. R. McIntire of this Bureau on March 12, 1941, for information concerning the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

In keeping with Captain Broadbent's request, I am transmitting herewith one copy of the report of Special Agent T. W. Dawsey dated at Washington, D. C., on January 21, 1941, in the matter entitled: Washington Committee for Democratic Action; Internal Security - C.

Sincerely yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

Enclosure

RECORDED

100-4590-15
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
MAR 20 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

SJT:MLG

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

March 14, 1941

Mr. Tolson ✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm ✓
Mr. Clegg ✓
Mr. Foxworth ✓
Mr. Nathan ✓
Mr. Ladd ✓
Mr. Glavin ✓
Mr. Nichols ✓
Mr. Hendon ✓
Mr. Rosen ✓
Mr. Tracy ✓
Miss Gandy

W. P. Patterson

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

RE: Files Division
Card Index Files

With further reference to Executive Conference memorandum of February 14, 1941, and the writer's memorandum to the Director of February 21, 1941, I again brought the subject matter of indexing the 5,000 names of members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action to the attention of the Executive Conference. The conference voted exactly as they voted originally, i.e., Messrs. Tolson, Glavin, Nichols, Ladd and Tracy favor indexing the officers and the organization but not the membership of this particular group. Mr. Clegg agrees. Messrs. Foxworth and Rosen again voted to index the entire membership. Originally, Mr. Nathan was present and voted against indexing the membership and Mr. Tamm, Mr. Quinn Tamm and Mr. Gurnea were present and voted in favor of indexing.

There were present at the conference, Messrs. Tolson, Clegg, Ladd, Foxworth, Rosen, Glavin, Nichols and Tracy.

Respectfully,
For the Conference

Clyde Tolson, Chairman

W. P. Glavin, Secretary

cc - W. R. Glavin

RECORDED & INDEXED

100-4590-15X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 APR 14 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TOLSON TAMM FOXWORTH FIVE

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 66-5084-631

ENC. 0

SJT:MLG

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

February 21, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

With reference to the attached Executive Conference memorandum of February 14, 1941, concerning the indexing of approximately 5,000 names of members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, this committee is a chapter or unit of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties which is headed by the Reverend Owen A. Knox of Detroit, Michigan. The leadership and program of the organization is definitely along communist lines.

An inquiry was made by the Bureau as to the identity and nature of this organization with the result that a report was submitted furnishing 5000 names of members of the Washington Chapter. There are other chapters throughout the East. The total membership is not known at this time. The investigation was for the purpose of ascertaining the nature of the organization rather than investigating the organization for any specific possible violation of Federal law.

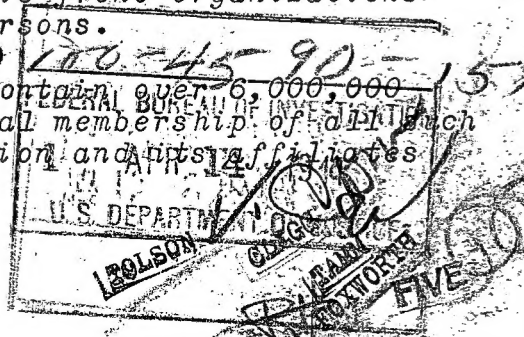
I desire to point out that this organization is similar to the American Peace Mobilization which claims 15,000,000 members. The American Peace Mobilization includes in its membership such groups as the National Negro Congress, the National Maritime Union, the United Automobile Workers of America, the International Workers Order, the Workers Alliance and the Fur Workers of America. Mr. McIntire advises me that the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties is somewhat similar in organization to the American Peace Mobilization and that it is a typical communist front group with interchangeable membership, that is, the communists get all the members they can to join all the organizations in order to claim as large a membership as possible. Therefore, to index the individual members of the various known communistic front organizations would total a minimum of 15,000,000 persons.

RECORDED & INDEXED

The present card index files contain over 6,000,000 index cards and if we add the individual membership of all such groups as the American Peace Mobilization and its affiliates

Mr. Tolson	✓
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	✓
Mr. Foxworth	
Mr. Nathan	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Tracy	
Miss Gandy	

2 ENCL. C



Memorandum for the Director

-2-

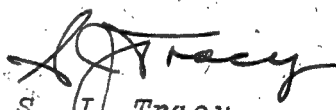
February 21, 1941

and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and its affiliates, we will have millions of unimportant names in the card index file that will ruin the file for investigative value. Its only value would be informative.

III If it is thought desirable to index the entire membership of all such organizations, I believe we should start a separate name index file. Mr. Tamm has already pointed out difficulties the Investigative and National Defense Divisions are experiencing in calling for files at the present time. There will be so many references by name that it will more than double the time to search a piece of mail and will take infinitely more time for a supervisor to check all possible references.

It is for the above reasons that I have brought to the attention of the Executive Conference various matters with reference to indexing. I believe it is highly important to index as many names as possible from our investigative reports which transmit information of an investigative nature. I seriously doubt the wisdom of indexing lists of names of doubtful value that contain no investigative information whatever. The organization itself is indexed and the membership can be added to without indexing each individual name itself.

Respectfully,


S. J. Tracy

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

SJT:RP

February 14, 1941

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Foxworth
Mr. Nathan
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Tracy
Miss Gandy

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Tracy brought to the attention of the Executive Conference the request of the National Defense Division to index about 5,000 names of members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. This Committee is a unit of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, which is headed by the Rev. Owen A. Knox of Detroit, Michigan. The leadership and program of the organization is definitely along Communistic lines. However, the membership is in no way indicative of membership in the Communist Party, but is drawn from all walks of life. ✓

Mr. Tracy pointed out to the Conference the objections to the indiscriminate indexing of names where there is no additional information pertaining to the person other than the membership in an organization. Mr. Tracy pointed out that it would be sufficient to index the organization itself and the officers, but that additional indexing of the membership would serve no useful purpose but would only tend to fill the administrative files index system with surplus and useless information.

The following members of the Conference voted against indexing the membership of this particular group: Tolson, Glavin, Nathan, Nichols, Ladd and Tracy. The following members voted in favor of indexing each name: Tamm, Quinn Tamm, Foxworth, Gurnea and Rosen.

Respectfully
For the Conference

✓
Clyde Tolson, Chairman
RECORDED

W. R. Glavin

cc-Mr. Glavin

100-4590-15X

RECORDED	INDEXED
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
I APR 14 1941	
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	
TOLSON	GLAVIN

NOT USED

100-4590-16 & 17
& 18

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100-262573-5 & 6
& 7

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR

RECORDED

100-4590-18X

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

RPK:TD

September 11, 1941

PERSONAL AND
CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
MR. MATTHEW F. McGUIRE

In accordance with your request that a search be made through the files of this Bureau of the names of persons employed by the Department of Justice, there are attached memoranda reflecting information which has been located in the Bureau's files on the basis of the search which you requested. You will appreciate the fact that since the Bureau was furnished only with the names of the Department employees, it is not possible to definitely state that the information included in the attached memoranda pertains to individuals of the same names who are employed in the Department. A separate memorandum has been prepared with respect to each name contained on your list on which there is a record in our files. Where possible, a notation is made in the memoranda indicating the probabilities that the information set forth may pertain to the individual who is employed by the Department.

You have previously been advised with respect to those names which you submitted concerning which there was either no record in our files or where no information of a derogatory nature could be located on the basis of the information furnished by you. In the case of very common names, the numerous references to the names in our files make it possible to identify information with the individuals employed in the Department without further identifying information.

I am also returning herewith the pay rolls which you submitted with your request.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director

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CH-13

Inclosure

ORIGINAL FILED IN 101-1338-X1-

PFK:lem:leh

August 15, 1941

MEMORANDUM

RE: WILLIAM L. MICKSON

Information has been received from a reliable source that William Mickson, 1410 T Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., is a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. This organization is allegedly Communistically controlled. (100-4590-9 Source - Membership List maintained by WCDA).

RECEIVED
F.B.I.
DEPT. OF JUSTICE
OCT 2 1941

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Drayton _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gandy _____

RECORDED

INDEXED

lml

100-4590-18X
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 13 1941

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MATTHEW F. McGUIRE
ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY
GENERAL

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
WASHINGTON

April 18, 1941

mm MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HOOVER, DIRECTOR, FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Confirming telephonic conversation between Mr. Foxworth of your office and Mr. Vanech of this office, there are transmitted herewith copies of pay rolls of the Department in order that they may be checked against your files.

After these lists have served their purpose please return them to this office.

/s/ Matthew F. McGuire
The Assistant to the Attorney General

ORIGINAL FILED IN 101-1338-11-

RECORDED

100-4590-18X

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

OCT 11 1941

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK, NY**

FILE NO. **100-283**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 4/25/41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 4/20/41	REPORT MADE BY W. H. CORRIGAN
TITLE THE WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

A national action conference called by the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties was held in Washington, D. C. April 19th and 20th. Mass meeting held at the National Press Club Auditorium Sunday evening, April 20th. Meeting addressed by CLIFFORD T. McAVOY, Deputy Commissioner of Welfare, New York City; EDWIN S. SMITH, member of the N.L.R.B.; and HAROLD CHRISTOFFEL, President of Allis-Chalmers Local 248 of the United Automobile Workers C.I.O. General topic discussed was preservation of civil liberties.

-P-

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter dated December 16, 1940, and Bureau telegram to all offices dated December 16, 1940.

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

Information to the effect that the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties were holding a national action conference in Washington, D. C. on April 19th and 20th was made available to the Washington Field Office by X-1 who furnished a press release advising of this fact.

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>S. K. McKee</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES
COPIES OF THIS REPORT		<div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">100-4590-19</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">MAY 1 1941</div> <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">APR 30 1941</div>
5 - Bureau (enc.) 2 - New York City 2 - Milwaukee (information) 2 - Washington Field		

This press release is herein set out:

NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES
1910 H. Street, N. W. Na.-7720

FOR RELEASE MORNING PAPERS FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 1941

More than 200 delegates from 30 states are arriving in Washington today to attend a National Action Conference called by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, Reverend Owen A. Knox, Chairman of the Federation, announced here today. The conference will be held at the Hotel Hamilton, starting Saturday, April 19, and continuing through Sunday.

Principal event of the conference will be a mass meeting at the National Press Club Auditorium Sunday evening where the speakers will be Edwin S. Smith, member of the National Labor Relations Board, Clifford T. McAvoy, Deputy Commissioner of Welfare, New York City, and Harold Christoffel, president of the Allis-Chalmers Local 248 of the United Automobile Workers, CIO. Mr. Christoffel will speak on the recent Allis Chalmers strike at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Preceding the mass meeting, panel groups will hold discussions on various phases of civil rights problems in the United States today. The following are the scheduled discussion panels for Saturday:

Rights of Franchise:

Vito Marcantonio, Congressman from New York
✓ Howard Lee, Executive Secretary, Southern Conference for Human
Abraham Zeitz, Secretary, Committee on Free Elections Welfare
Russell Chase, Attorney, Cleveland, Ohio
Henry Collins, Member, Descendants of the American Revolution
Eugene Connolly, American Labor Party

Labor's Rights:

Robert Travis, Organizer, Farm Equipment Workers' Organizing Committee
Ernest Goodman, Assistant Counsel, United Automobile Workers
Edward Scheunemann, Chairman, Committee on Rights of Government

Workers, Washington Committee for Democratic Action
Elinor Kahn, Research Director, CIO Maritime Committee
Nathan Witt, Attorney, New York City

Discrimination Against Racial, National and Religious Minorities:

Josephine Truslow Adams, Member, Descendants of the American Revolution
Rabbi Moses Millker, President, Jewish People's Committee
Doxey Wilkerson, Professor of Education, Howard University
John P. Davis, National Negro Congress.

Freedom of Speech, Press and Assembly is the panel for Sunday morning.

Edward Lamb, Executive Vice-President, National Lawyers Guild
Abraham Isserman, Counsel, National Federation for Constitutional Liberties
Joseph Cadden, Legislative Secretary, American Youth Congress
Robert Wirtz, Secretary, International Labor Defense, Chicago.

Saturday evening there will be an "open house" for the delegates, with the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, local Federation affiliate, as host, at the home of Mary Van Casteel, 3136 Dumbarton Avenue, N. W.

Monday morning the 200 delegates will visit their Congressmen and Senators to discuss legislation affecting civil rights.

X-1 also made available the "Call to National Action Conference" and a copy of the mass meeting notice which, together with the press release and papers obtained at the mass meeting, are being forwarded to the Bureau.

The writer attended the mass meeting of the National Action Conference which was held Sunday evening in the auditorium of the National Press Club, 14th and F Streets, N. W. The meeting was scheduled to start at 8:15 P.M. and the writer arrived at 7:50 P.M. The crowd was slow in arriving, and the meeting did not commence until 8:50 P.M. when Reverend OWEN A. KNOX, Chairman of the National Federation for Civil Liberties, addressed the audience.

The first speaker he introduced was CLIFFORD T. McAVOY, Deputy Commissioner of Welfare, New York City, whose topic was to be "The New Inquisition and the Bill of Rights". Mr. McAVOY spoke about the present day attack on civil rights and civil liberties and described the attack on civil rights and liberties as the "new inquisition." He traced his family background to show that he was strictly an American, one side of his family having come to this country in the 1600's and the other in 1848.

He praised the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and its fight to make certain that present day business does not wipe out the present constitutional form of government. He emphasized that the way to obtain this objective is to observe the motto of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, "The way to keep free speech is to speak."

He stated no "ism" can control this country as long as we make our present American form of government work. He related how years ago, in the 1700's, the people acted through the old New England town meeting. In this matter all men were equal. There was no monopoly. But today, because of monopoly and the moving of the workers to the city, this New England town meeting is impractical and impossible. As a result, clubs, trade unions and liberty groups are replacing the town meeting, and through them the individual is able to obtain his objectives. So we who believe in the duties of every American man and woman see that trade unions should be the one to obtain a complete dismissal of monopoly control.

Mr. McAVOY said that no one who spoke for the Bill of Rights, the effort to keep this country out of war, or the efforts of labor to protect living standards by organization, "can escape calumny, misrepresentation, vilification and the lying attacks of those who would bring Fascism to this country under the guise of patriotism and Americanism."

He closed his address by stating that we should all fall definitely into the fight to preserve the four freedoms: namely, the freedom against national hatred, freedom of fear, of speech, and religion.

Reverend KNOX introduced the next speaker of the evening, namely, EDWIN S. SMITH, member of the National Labor Relations

Board, whose speech was interrupted while the audience sang the song, "Solidarity Forever." This particular song is contained on the second page of the song book distributed at the meeting, which book is also being forwarded to the Bureau.

Mr. SMITH started off his address by stating that civil liberties are like good health, we are not conscious of them until we lose them. Civil liberties are part of a scheme of things, and we are aware of them only when they are taken from us. At all times some group is struggling for civil rights. These groups become so general at a time of war that people become aware that their civil rights are being undermined. Citizens are rallying to groups such as the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties to protest attacks. Attackers cloak themselves as patriots and state they are acting in behalf of national unity.

He went on to say that in this wave of fear we must pause to reflect on the fundamental principles that the substance of democracy is the water of liberty. Liberty is the freedom to express our convictions and to associate with our fellow men. These are the real guards against Fascism and they are worth fighting for. We must practice democracy and not put it on and off like we would a coat.

He continued saying that selfish elements during war time make their feelings doubly felt and our rights are invaded. The press comes out to say that Communism is a brother of Fascism. This is being said more so because of the recent pact between Germany and Russia. But these two are far apart. The press holds them common in order to destroy our democratic principles. He stated that "one of the most important tasks now facing this country is to create an atmosphere of tolerant understanding of labor's natural demands in the defense picture." He asserted that there is "an attack under way on American labor which is being aided by the printing of propaganda and an astute use of Communism bogey. Strikes are resulting from workers dissatisfaction with continued low wages in the face of mounting profits rather than radical influences."

He stated that the worker has seen the manufacturer

make great profits and his own position then appears unjust. He stated that strikes may follow if bargaining does not result from such a condition, but this is not Communism and it cannot be said that labor will not sacrifice for national defense.

Mr. SMITH stated that all this furor leads only to anti-strike legislation which in itself is bad. He recalled that congress has lately made fantastic utterances in regard to this situation which, if enacted, would make the coming of Fascism to this country only a matter of time. It also results in alien legislation which is so contrary to United States principles, and which are similar to the Semetic attacks and attacks against minority groups. These are all forerunners of Fascism which have already been exhibited in other countries.

He brought his address to a close by stating that people are becoming more aware of their rights. They are Americans and are not easily intimidated, and they are fighting to keep alive their civil liberties with as stubborn a fight as would be made against an enemy of our shores. The fact that people throughout our country are rallying to fight is heartening. The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties is doing a great and brave service. It is not easy to act and think straight when abuse of others is the result. I believe in democracy and will give now and in the future the best that is in me.

Reverend KNOX then addressed the audience, speaking in particular about the position of the government worker. He stated that he has seen the government worker in Washington and has noticed his spirit. He stated that we will fight Fascism and gain democracy. Government workers were fired because they thought certain thoughts. I wonder what will happen when they face the problem the workers throughout the country have faced and fought. You have fought the fight to be Americans.

He went on to state that we have rights and duties and therefore we are submitting to a vote a Bill of Rights

and Duties which was introduced at the afternoon session.
He then read this bill which was broken up into ten points:

1. The dearest possession of the American people is its heritage of a democratic institution. It is in jeopardy today. We must assume the duty to defend our rights. We shall resolve that the government of the people, by the people, and for the people shall not perish.
2. It is the duty of everybody to uphold and defend the constitution of the United States, the Bill of Rights, the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments, and the right to organize and bargain collectively.
3. It is the duty of everybody to practice tolerance toward religious service and also to object to military service if it is against one's conscience. It is the duty of people to see that places of assembly are open to all, and there shall be the right to petition the Government to prevent blacklisting.
4. It is the duty of people to protect the rights of workers.
5. It is the duty of people to protect property from illegal searches and seizures.
6. It is the duty of people to defend the rights of aliens and citizens.
7. It is the duty of people to oppose all violations against constitutional provisions.
8. It is the duty of the people to guarantee by vigilance the American system of free election., to see that there is a vote to all persons.
9. It is the duty of the people to fight all doctrines of racism.
10. It is the prime duty of the people to unmask deception so that democracy can not be put aside in an emergency.

A vote was then made to adopt these duties in toto. However, before the vote was taken the Reverend KNOX continued to speak to the audience. He stated that if we are to make this Bill of Duties real and effective throughout the United States, we are going to have to seriously and sacrificially support them. He stated that it was suggested to him that on July 4 the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties call on every village, town and community to celebrate this day in the defence of the Bill of Rights. We are going to ask you to make this possible. You are not given the right in Washington to serve on picket lines. You are not privileged to meet the situations here that we have faced throughout the United States. You have faced it in the discharge of civil service men. But you can do more to make possible the preservation of civil rights by supporting the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, which is fighting for the government worker. These are serious days. You have the opportunity to sacrifice both your time and your means. We can't offer you money. In the type of democracy we seek to maintain, we are not only asking to get your vote without reimbursement but we ask you also to sacrifice for the privilege to vote for democratic ideals and standards. I don't have to sell you, you are willing. I will wait for you to tell me how much you will give.

After some time had elapsed, various contributions were made to the chair which are herein set out:

\$25 was pledged by the National Office of the ~~the~~ American Peace Mobilization.

\$10 pledged by the Pittsburgh Federation.

\$10 donated by JAMES C. ~~HILL~~.

\$5 donated by the ~~the~~ Green Belt Peace Club.

\$5 donated by GERALD ~~HARRIS~~.

\$5 donated by Local #12 of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

\$5 donated by the Railroad Retirement Board Peace Club.

\$5 donated by JAMES CROUCHER

About twenty or twenty-five members of the audience donated \$1 bills, but these persons names were not publicly announced. In addition to these donations, a collection was taken up among the audience but the amount collected was not made public.

After the collection, Reverend KNOX put the Bill of Duties to a vote and it was adopted unanimously.

At this point, Reverend KNOX stated that we are led on by our Youth Clubs throughout the country. He went on that in Milwaukee a great union has attracted our attention and admiration, and that of labor everywhere. This was the Allis-Chalmers Local in Milwaukee which is controlled by HAROLD CHRISTOFFEL.

Reverend KNOX then introduced CHRISTOFFEL to the audience, but before he had a chance to speak the audience joined in the song, "Vito is our Leader."

HAROLD CHRISTOFFEL stated that the Allis-Chalmers strike was given national attention. You read much about it. We welcome the chance to give you our story. You did not read this. It did not come into the public eye until our friends KNOX and KNUDSEN spoke about it. There are different aspects. We started it with over eight thousand employees and said we would not picket. We did this so we would know who went in the plant. No one went in. The strike was started because of broken promises of the company.

I will give you the background. The company made up its mind to destroy the union. It was among the largest in the area. It was a cornerstone in which the employees knew that if it fell it would cripple the union. The company in November destroyed agreements and promises made last April, which could only be met with the action we took. Strike action is only final action. All things were looked into. It took some twenty days after starting negotiations on a new contract before we

started. This was not a cooling-off period but a heating-up one. As long as the company stalled off, the more reported back and the more determined were the workers. The company wanted to destroy the union, not the union but what was more important, the preservation of the rights which we have as workers and citizens. We had to protect those. It was that that we fought for. The security of the union meant security of the worker's rights.

One episode after the strike began occurred when we went to Washington and sat with O.P.M. (Office of Production Management) to work out the puzzle. We were here for many days. It appeared that the people we talked to believed in what we asked, the maintenance of the organization. They agreed and said that if we fought for less we were derelicting our duty. But when we came home it was all different. This was one of the sordid episodes of the strike. They used a Government agency not to destroy the union but tried to confuse.

It was only because we, the local, knew what we wanted. We knew when we had it and when we didn't have it. We knew we couldn't live with an employer if a third party, especially if it was the Government, was telling the employee what to do.

It was not until O.P.M. withdrew its statement which had given the company something to hang on that we started. The Government came in and said "If, should we, the union, do something, they would see that the company did likewise." We were anxious to see the "white light" put on the guilty party. We accepted once more and when the company refused no white light appeared. They must have been short of power. That was the end of O.P.M. as far as we were concerned and as far as those who knew the facts were concerned.

We then moved into the State hearing. We have a law saying a company can state that a union is guilty of unfair acts. This was done and among the complaints against the union was "organizing a union." The big issue which received headlines was that the wording of the ballots had been changed. We were supposed to have taken two strike votes in order to get a

majority which was required to call a strike, the second vote was showing a majority. The company tried to put confusion into the situation and tried to discredit the strike by the issue of the strike. When we produced the ballots, lo and behold they were all right. A lot of things were brought out, things important to us as workers and citizens. They asked for all the records of the union. We submitted all minutes requested which under no law they had a right to inspect. We said all they wanted to do was to cloud the issue but we were going to do so anyway. The only thing they found wrong was that we took movies of the gates.

They asked for financial records but when they saw we were ready to fight they backed down. These records meant nothing to us as a union but they could have been used against other unions, but they didn't ask for them.

There were other issues. A week before the hearing started the company asked for a handwriting expert to look at the ballots. They wanted to look at the X's. We felt they didn't have the right but it was costing them \$200 a day. We got suspicious and as the investigation progressed we figured out we would get an expert too, a real one, an expert on X's. She had looked over half a million in her life. She reported two days before reconvening that there were irregularities in the ballots. We then took the bull by the horns and explained to our people that there were irregularities. It was either some union people or agents of the company or someone who had the interests of the company at heart. But the fact was that the company was the benefactor of the move and that they were inquisitive about the ballots long before we were. Again the press made full use of it. When we admitted it the press printed that the union officers had admitted fraud. But in spite of this climax the people stood solid in spite of slander thrown at them, because we knew the workers were not interested in what the company had brought up. This confusion which might affect the public had no effect on the workers. This we did not know, that this was a prearranged play and that KNOX and KNUDSEN would say, "Okay, employer, you can open up". The union was not consulted.

The day we were supposed to go back to work we had a meeting across the street and resolved that the worker had a right to decide for himself when to go back to work. The workers decided to make their own decision on the day of their next meeting which happened to be Saturday. They said to a man, "If the Government is so interested, they should see that the company adopted the O.P.M. plan proposed." All they expected of KNUDSEN was that he see that the company do so. So we didn't go back to work. So Monday the people milled around the plant. There was no picketing but they had the right to assemble. There were three official observers and observers observing the observers. The company saw only the stooges go in so the company threw tear gas at the people. I don't know what it is in tear gas but it makes men mad, especially when they saw it go over their women and over the school grounds and when a deputy quit when he said he didn't want to be connected with a company that threw tear gas at women and children.

So it was the April 1st fight the next day. Government men came out to talk, to talk to their fellow workers. Water was thrown, not plain water but water taken from sewers. It did not take them long to see that not only all the Allis-Chalmers workers but also those in the vicinity could not stomach such acts and the plant should be closed. The people took all this in order to show the company that when people make up their minds they can't be stopped.

The \$5,000 truck with the plate $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick did not stop them or scare them. Something snaps from within the ordinary person and he does what he thinks is right. The Governor, Mayor and the Chief of Police said, "Please take the people away". We said, "They are citizens." We couldn't make them go away. They said again, "Do something." We said, "Okay, if they promise to keep the plant closed." They agreed but we couldn't do a thing. The people even gave the Mayor of West Allis a bath. We started a parade and this stopped something worse from happening like in Chicago. They would have broken down the fences, which they had already started to do, especially knowing the company was handing iron pipes to those inside to use.

To sum up about the workers in West Allis, I say nothing happened like the way the workers all over rallied against K and K (KNOX and KNUDSEN). Labor rallied throughout the entire country. They were in our backyard by the interest they took. The hope in back of it is that we have a labor movement and organized groups and that we will not let the nation down. We also learned, all of us, one thing, that these people who talk so loudly about national defense think so little about defense of the people. It makes us think they are not so sincere. They have something in the back of their mind. They know the war program is serious.

We of West Allis are happy we secured a union, got more than we thought we would for awhile. But we are happy we aided all people to maintain liberties and rights and to keep the nation free and democratic.

At the conclusion of this last speech the audience prepared to file out of the auditorium, when they were addressed by ALICE BARROWS, a member of the executive committee of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, who urged that all those present who were not already members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action do something to become members. She stated that the F.B.I., the Civil Service Commission, and the Dies Committee are carrying on an attack against Government workers. If these attacks succeed, union activity in Government work will end. It will be a great threat to organization. We are taking up the case of each worker, the SCHLESSINGER case for example. We will take legal action so join the ranks of the fighters. This means the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. She then told those who were not members to sign the membership cards which had been placed on the seats before the meeting started. One of these cards is being forwarded to the Bureau. The audience then sang "Vito is our Leader."

Agent noted that there were seven hundred to seven hundred fifty persons attending this meeting, the majority of them being Jewish. About one-fifth of the audience were negroes.

ENCLOSURES TO THE BUREAU

Press Release

Mass Meeting Bill

Call National Action Conference

Circular entitled, "Murder in Cold Blood"

Song Book distributed at meeting April 20, 1941

Announcement of meeting April 25, 1941, at Uline's Arena

UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE WASHINGTON FIELD OFFICE, at Washington, D. C., will continue to conduct and report investigations with reference to the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.)

-PENDING-

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT

The X-1 referred to in the body of the report
is identified [REDACTED] FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

ENCLOSURE TO BUREAU
WFO FILE 100-283

ENCLOSURE

100-4590-19

THESE MEN WERE THE FIRST TO FIGHT HITLERISM

Now They Are

MURDERED IN COLD BLOOD

Cable From London 2:23 P.M. April 18, 1941

150 BRIGADERS KILLED CAMP VERNET. REVOLT AGAINST BAD TREATMENT. CAMP CLOSED. BRIGADERS DEPORTED TO NORTH AFRICA TO WORK TRANS-SAHARAN RAILWAY. OTHERS BEING EXTRADITED GERMANY ITALY. INTERCEDE CORDELL HULL TO REQUEST VICHY ACT AGAINST DEPORTATION AND EXTRADITION. URGENT YOU ACT. REPLY US RESULTS.

Rowe - International Brigade Association
London.

WHO IS TO BLAME?

The FRENCH
GOVERNMENT -
which refuses
to permit the
evacuation of
the refugees

The GERMAN
GOVERNMENT -
which still
hounds these
first foes of
fascism.

The BRITISH
GOVERNMENT -
which refuses
to permit a
rescue ship
to sail.

The UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT - which
has never taken a
single step to help
these enemies of
Hitlerism to safety.

WHAT MUST BE DONE?

PROTEST TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT:

The United States Government must put every pressure on the French Government to stop the deportations and extraditions.

The United States Government must require the British to let rescue ships sail.

PHONE THE SECRETARY OF STATE:

The number is Republic 5600. Or simply put this in an envelope, sign and mail it! Secretary Hull will get the point.

SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE UNITED SPANISH AID COMMITTEE, 210 Evans Bldg.
Washington, D. C.
District 1445

The Way to Keep Free Speech is to Speak!

MASS MEETING

EVERYWHERE throughout America the people have swung into action in defense of their civil rights. There is deep and mounting indignation at the attacks on constitutional liberties. These attacks are directed against freedom of speech, press and assembly, the right to organize and bargain collectively, the right to vote as you please, the right to freedom of opinion. They are carried on with police violence and vigilante intimidation. ¶ But the people have refused to give ground. They have moved forward, strong and unyielding, in defense of our American liberties, which the forces of reaction, under the cloak of war hysteria would destroy. The masses of the people demand, "No blackout of civil rights."

Hear—

EDWIN S. SMITH

Member, National Labor Relations Board

CLIFFORD T. McAVOY

Deputy Commissioner of Welfare, New York City

HAROLD CHRISTOFFEL

President, Allis-Chalmers Local 248, U. A. W. C. I. O.

TIME: Sunday, April 20, 8:15 P. M.

PLACE: National Press Club

Auditorium (14th and F Streets, N. W.)

AUSPICES:

ADMISSION: 25 Cents

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE for DEMOCRATIC ACTION

**CALL
national
ACTION
conference**

for *Civil Rights*

**APRIL 19 - 20
HOTEL HAMILTON
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

National Federation *for* Constitutional Liberties

EVERYWHERE throughout America the people have swung into action in defense of their civil rights. There is deep and mounting indignation at the attacks on Constitutional liberties.

These attacks are initiated or supported, in many instances, by agencies of federal, state and local government. Other assaults, less direct but more subversive of the people's sovereignty, are governmental proposals for mediation, arbitration, super-labor tribunals on a "voluntary" basis.

In 43 state legislatures, similar bills or worse, are under consideration.

From coast to coast come reports of successful action:

- Everywhere the fight for civil rights, though different in detail, in essence is the same. The time has now come to pool our experiences and ideas. Systematic strategy is required on a national scale to defend Constitutional liberties.

Therefore, the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties is calling a **NATIONAL ACTION CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS**. This is a conference, not for talk, but to *plan and act*. The masses of the people demand, "*No blackout of civil rights!*"

National Federation for Constitutional Liberties
1410 H Street, N. W. — NAational 7720 — Washington, D. C.

"THE WAY TO KEEP FREE SPEECH IS TO SPEAK"

PROGRAM

Saturday, April 19

Registration—HAMILTON HOTEL, GOLD ROOM

9:30 a.m.

CHAIRMAN—REVEREND OWEN A. KNOX, Chairman, National Federation for Constitutional Liberties

Roll Call of the States

10:00-10:30

Report of the Secretary

10:30-11:00

ACTION MEETINGS

This is a Conference to plan effective action in defense of civil rights. The Action Meetings, without formal speeches, will center discussion on the most pressing civil rights issues today. In them the delegates must play the leading part. Out of them will come clear-cut, workable plans in meeting the issues

Rights of Franchise

11-12:30

Labor's Rights

2:00- 3:30

Racial Discrimination

3:30- 5:00

Saturday Evening

Open House to Delegates—Hosts: Washington Committee for Democratic Action

8:30 p.m.

Sunday Morning, April 20

ACTION MEETING

Freedom of Speech, Press and Assembly

10:30-12:00

Sunday Afternoon

PLANS FOR ACTION—Immediate and Long Range

2:00- 4:00

On Issues: Plans for action, growing out of the Action Meeting, will be submitted for discussion and decision.

On Organization: Plans for more effective organization of forces, nationally and locally, will be submitted.

Sunday Evening

MASS MEETING—NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AUDITORIUM

8:15 p.m.

Auspices: Washington Committee for Democratic Action

Speakers: EDWIN S. SMITH

Member, National Labor Relations Board

CLIFFORD T. McAVOY

Deputy Commissioner of Welfare, New York City

Monday, April 21

Delegates will visit their Congressmen and Senators on legislation affecting Civil Rights

9:30 a.m.

National Federation for Constitutional Liberties

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City and State

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APRIL 25

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Mail This Card Today

MASS MEETING

National Press Club Auditorium

April 20 - 8:15 P.M.

SONGS

Auspices:

Washington Committee for Democratic Action

National Federation for Constitutional Liberties

AMERICA THE BEAUTIFUL

Oh beautiful for spacious skies,
For amber waves of grain,
For purple mountains majesties,
Above thy fruited plains,
America, America, God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

Oh beautiful for Pilgrims' feet,
Whose stern impassioned tread,
A thoroughfare for freedom beat,
Across the wilderness,
America, America, God shed His grace on thee,
And crown thy good with brotherhood,
From sea to shining sea.

HOLD THE FORT

1. We meet today in freedom's cause,
And raise our voices high;
We'll join our hands in union strong
To battle or to die.

Chorus

Hold the fort, for we are coming,
Union men be strong!
Side by side we battle onward,
Victory will come.

2. Look, my brother, see the union
Banners waving high;
Reenforcements now appearing;
Victory is nigh.

Chorus

3. See our numbers still increasing,
Hear the bugles blow.
By our union we shall triumph
Over every foe.

Chorus

SOLIDARITY

The workers learned their lesson now as everyone can see,
The workers know their bosses are their greatest enemy,
We'll fight and fight until we win the final victory,
Through One Big Solid Union.

Chorus

Solidarity forever!
Solidarity forever!
Solidarity forever!
For the union makes us strong.

JOE HILL

I dreamed I saw Joe Hill last night
Alive as you and me.

Says I, "But Joe, you're ten years dead,"

"I never died," says he. (Repeat)

"In Salt Lake, Joe, by God," says I

Him standing by my bed,

"They framed you on a murder charge."

Says Joe, "But I ain't dead." (Repeat.)

"The copper bosses killed you, Joe,

They shot you, Joe," says I.

"Takes more than guns to kill a man,"

Says Joe, "I didn't die." (Repeat.)

And standing there as big as life

And smiling with his eyes,

Joe says "What they forgot to kill

Went on to organize." (Repeat.)

"Joe Hill ain't dead," he says to me,

"Joe Hill ain't never died.

Where workingmen are out on strike

Joe Hill is at their side." (Repeat.)

"From San Diego up to Maine

In every mine and mill

Where workers strike and organize,"

Says he, "You'll find Joe Hill." (Repeat.)

(Repeat first stanza -- very softly)

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER

Oh, say can you see

By the dawn's early light

What so proudly we hailed

At the twilight's last gleaming,

Whose broad stripes and bright stars

Through the perilous night

O'er the ramparts we watched

Were so gallantly streaming.

And the rockets' red glare,

Bombs bursting in air,

Gave proof through the night

That our flag was still there.

Oh say does that Star Spangled Banner yet wave

O'er the land of the free

And the home of the brave.

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

AR:GEG

April 29, 1941

Time: 3:25 P.M.

hw
MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Re: DAVID J. SAPOSS *CW*

Mr. Vanech in Mr. McGuire's office telephoned and stated that Senator Mead has requested to be advised if the name of the captioned individual, who resides at 1928 Belmont Road, N. W., Washington, D. C., appears on the membership list of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. The Senator has indicated that Saposs has been after him for an endorsement for a position, the nature of which was not stated, and he wanted to know of any derogatory information concerning him. I told Mr. Vanech I would check this and call him back.

4:50 P.M.

I called Mr. Vanech and advised that the Bureau's files indicate he is listed as a member of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and that there are numerous references to this person in the files.

Respectfully,

A. Rosen
A. Rosen

MAY 8 1941

RECORDED

MAY 8 1941

100-4590-20
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 MAY 2 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
TAMM
FIVE

DE-INDEXED

DATE: 10/13/57

**Rally to Emphasize
Labor's Strike Rights**

A rally "to support labor's right to strike" will be held at 8:15 p. m. today at the Hotel Hamilton, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action announced yesterday.

Carl Bradley, vice president of the Maryland and District Industrial Union Council, and C. W. Fowler will discuss recent and current defense industry strikes, anti-strike legislation and "administrative threats against the basic rights of labor."

NOT RECORDED

100-4590-A -

THE WASHINGTON POST
April 9, 1941

MAY 5 1941

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CHAPTER, NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES
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I thought this might be of interest

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2205 - California Ave N.W.

city

(Sec. 562 P. L. & R.)



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&
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100-4590-21
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
5 MAY 27 1941
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EX - 3

3

W. Miller
Quentin Miller

ENCL. W

6

Q-1
H-1

PUBLIC HEAR**The PEOPLE vs. the DIES COMMITTEE**

BILL OF INDICTMENT: We, representatives of ordinary Americans, charge: **1.** That the Dies Committee subverted our Constitutional rights to freedom of speech, organization, petition, and assembly—through smear, intimidation, and threats—in an attempt to frighten honest people in all walks of life in order to prevent free discussion at this time of great national emergency. **2.** That the Dies Committee has disregarded the traditional right of the individual to defend himself. **3.** That the Dies Committee, through its methods and the perversion of its objectives, has become a symbol of those forces driving toward the un-American way of life.

THEREFORE WE, in jury and court assembled, do hereby demand that the Dies Committee stand before us in a public forum, that the voice of the American people may be heard.

JUDGE: Rockwell Kent**DEFENDANTS: The Dies Committee**
WITNESSES,**A CITIZEN—Muriel Draper****PRESS—Leo Huberman,** Columnist, and Author, "We, the People"**CHURCH—Reverend William B. Spofford****YOUTH—Frances Williams,** Executive Secretary, American Youth Congress**LABOR—Frederick Meyers,** National Field Organizer, National Maritime Union**Peter Hawley,** Member, Executive Board, United Office and
Workers of America**WRITERS—Henrietta Buckmaster,** Author, "Let My People Go."**BOOKS—Jules Yanover,** Executive Secretary, The Bookshop**EDUCATION—Doxey Wilkerson,** Professor of Education, Howard University**PEACE—Morris Watson,** Secretary, National Labor Committee Against War**NEGRO—John Davis,** Secretary, National Negro Congress**GOVERNMENT WORKERS—Hugh B. Miller,** Chairman, Washington Committee for
Democratic Action**JURY: We, The People****Time: TUES., MAY 27, 8:15 p.m., Place: NAT'L PRESS CLUB****WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC CONSTITUTIONAL ACTION**

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **NEW YORK CITY**

FILE NO. **100-283**

REPORT MADE AT WASHINGTON, D. C.	DATE WHEN MADE 6/18/41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 5/27/41	REPORT MADE BY J. B. O'LEARY JBO:MKL
TITLE THE WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION AND THE NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES.			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Public hearing under auspices of Washington Committee for Democratic Action and National Federation for Constitutional Liberties held in National Press Club auditorium, Washington D. C., May 27, 1941. Speakers and affiliations and remarks set out. General purpose of meeting was to discredit and smear the Dies Committee.

-P-

DETAILS:

AT WASHINGTON, D. C.

This investigation is predicated upon a hand bill which had been distributed throughout Washington, D. C. with regard to a public hearing to be held under the auspices of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, at the National Press Club auditorium, 14th and F Streets, Northwest, at 8:15 P. M., May 27, 1941.

A reproduction of this hand bill follows hereafter:

PUBLIC HEARING

The People vs. the Dies Committee

Bill of Indictment: We, representatives of ordinary Americans, charge: 1. That the Dies Committee has subverted our

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>S. R. Mc Kee</i>	SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE <i>Emo</i>	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES 4590-22	INDEXED JUL 12 1941
COPIES OF THIS REPORT 5 - Bureau (Enclosures) 2 - New York (Information) 2 - Washington Field		JUN 21 1941 <i>enc. det. 7/11/41</i>	

This record only partly described 10-20-39 134

RECEIVED DEPT. OF JUSTICE
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Constitutional rights to freedom of speech, organization, petition, and assembly-through smearing, intimidation, and threats - in an attempt to frighten honest people in all walks of life in order to prevent free discussion in this time of great national emergency. 2. That the Dies Committee has disregarded the traditional right of the accused to defend himself. 3. That the Dies Committee, through its methods and the perversion of its objectives, has become a symbol of those forces driving toward the un-American way of life.

Therefore We, in jury and court assembled, do hereby demand that the Dies Committee stand trial before us in a public forum, that the voice of the American people may be heard.

JUDGE: Rockwell Kent
DEFENDANTS: The Dies Committee
WITNESSES,

A citizen - Maribel Draper
Press - Leo Huberman, Columnist and Author, "We, the People"
Church - Reverend William B. Spofford
Youth - Frances Williams, Executive Secretary, American Youth Congress
Labor - Frederick Meyers, National Field Organizer, National Maritime Union
Peter Hawley, Member, Executive Board, United Office and Professional Workers of America
Writers - Hennriette Buckmaster, Author, "Let my People Go."
Books - Jules Yanover, Executive Secretary, The Bookshop
Education - Dorsey Wilkerson, Professor of Education, Howard University
Peace - Morris Watson, Secretary, National Labor Committee Against War, APM.
Negro - John Davis, Secretary, National Negro Congress
Government Workers - Hugh B. Miller, Chairman, Washington Committee for Democratic Action

JURY: We, The People

This meeting was scheduled for 8:15 P. M. and the writer arrived at approximately 8:20 P. M. It was noted in the lobby entrance to the auditorium that various pamphlets were being sold, several of which were purchased and are being furnished to the Bureau as enclosures to this report. There was also noted in the lobby, a sign on the wall bearing the notation "Jim Crowism Must Go, Sign the Petition to Restore the Rights of the Negro in Washington, D. C." These words were printed in large red and blue block letters and near the sign was a middle-aged woman, seated at a table endeavoring

to secure signatures upon the petition, a copy of which petition is also being forwarded to the Bureau with copies of this report. The purpose of this petition was to bring pressure to bear upon the Congress of the United States to enact into law, Senate Bill Number 1456, a Civil Rights Bill for the District of Columbia which would provide penalties for discrimination in public places against any person on account of race, color or creed.

There was also in the Lobby, a table where various magazines and books were displayed, such as "The New Republic", "The Nation", "We the People" by LEO HUBERMAN, "Let My People Go" by HENRIETTA BUCKMASTER, and ROCKWELL KENT'S "This is My Own". In back of this table stood a huge sign reading "Are these books subversive, the Dies Committee thinks so". There was also a sign indicating that these books on display were books which were being distributed by the Bookshop of Washington, D. C.

There was also a large table where tickets were being sold for the hearing and upon which table was a large sign reading "Join the Washington Committee for Democratic Action". Membership cards for this organization were being distributed, several of which were obtained and are being included as enclosures with this report.

There were no decorations in the auditorium except for two American flags which were displayed one on each side of the balcony in the rear of the room. The stage was set with a judge's chair in the center and to the left, that is the audience's left, there were a number of chairs for the witnesses. To the right on the stage were four or five chairs which were covered by a sign reading "The Defendants, the Dies Committee". At the very back of the stage appeared a huge sign reading "The Way to Keep Free Speech is to Speak".

The auditorium is capable of seating from five to six hundred people by crowding, and it is estimated that approximately 400 people were in attendance at this meeting. It was noted that there were approximately 15 negroes present. It was also noted that approximately half of the audience was made up of women. From further observation it appeared that the Jewish element predominated in the gathering. As the crowd came in very slowly, the meeting did not get under way until 9:05 P. M.

The writer noted PHIL BONOSKY, President of the City Council Workers Alliance of America, 930 M Street, Northwest, who is also connected with the Communist Party of the District of Columbia and CLARENCE GRIBWITZ, alias CLARENCE GUREWITZ, who is also known to the Washington Field Office as a Communist agitator, as being present in the audience. BONOSKY was noted to take many notes during the course of the evening.

The meeting was opened by a young man serving in the capacity of bailiff coming on to the stage and announcing over the audition system, "Hear Ye, Here Ye, the Honorable people's Court is now in session. All those having business in the Court please remain". The witnesses for the prosecution then filed across the stage and took their seats. The entrance of the judge was then announced and thereupon ROCKWELL KENT, dressed in the black robe of a Justice came upon the stage and took his place in the judge's chair. He rapped his gavel and announced the opening of the court.

KENT commenced by stating it was fitting to open this session of the court by a prayer, as it was religion that gave sanction to our morals and religion that gave sanction to our aspirations. He read the opening prayer which he said was the prayer read upon the opening of the first continental congress. At the conclusion of the prayer he made some remarks about the reason for the existence of courts and as to why this particular court was sitting. He quoted from the preamble of the Constitution and also read the Bill of Rights, concluding with the remarks that the people of America were entitled to the freedom granted them and were in court at this time to guard against the usurpation of the freedom.

KENT next read a number of telegrams and messages which had been received from various individuals and organizations throughout the country, expressing their approval and support of this meeting as a rebuke to the Dies Committee. Messages were read from Rev. OWEN A KNOX, a number of individuals from Poughkeepsie, New York and a dozen or so others of which the reporting agent was not able to secure the names.

KENT next advised the court would hear the case of "The People vs. MARTIN DIES". He asked if the witnesses for the public were present and the witnesses unanimously replied "Yes". He next asked if the witnesses for the Defense were present and received no answer. He thereupon stated, "I know there are Agents of the Dies Committee in the auditorium, and boldly stated that if they were men, they would stand up. This gave the audience a great feeling and the majority applauded lustily. No one stood of course and KENT thereupon inquired "will no one defend the defendant. Isn't there someone in the hall who is poor enough and low enough who will even consent to defend this defendant for a consideration?" At this point a young man dressed as a country Bumkin volunteered from the rear of the hall and came forth upon the stage carrying on in a frivolous manner, which drew great laughs from the audience.

The case then proceeded and the first witness for the prosecution was FRANCES WILLIAMS, Executive Secretary, American Youth Congress, who was speaking on behalf of Youth. She related how the Youth Congress was made up of four and one-half million of American Youths, who wanted a chance at education, gainful employment, a chance to keep their country out of War and an opportunity to live in a world of peace. She spoke of how the Dies Committee had subpoenaed an individual whose name was not given, which individual was supposedly an officer of the National Youth Congress, but who actually had not been a member for two years. The Youth Congress heard about this subpoena and decided they should have representatives present at the hearing in order that they might vindicate any charges which would be made against the Youth Congress. She stated the officers of the National Youth Congress banded together in New York City with a period of about ten hours to spare and telephonically contacted various members to make the trip to Washington, D. C. in order to appear before the Dies Committee. Inasmuch as they could not afford to come by sleeper, this representative group was alleged by WILLIAMS to have come by the "milk train" which leaves New York between 3:00 and 5:30 A. M. Upon their arrival in Washington, they appeared at the Dies Committee hearing and demanded to be heard. As a result of their unity and testimony, she stated, the Dies Committee in its reports declared the Youth Congress was not subversive. She further related how in 1940, the Youth Congress had met in Washington and had had a gathering of about three to four thousand and how they had met in the early part of 1941 and had a gathering of from five to six thousand and further they expected to meet in Philadelphia between June 8th and July 7th, at which time they would put on the greatest gathering of Grassroot Youths ever assembled in this country. During the course of WILLIAMS' talk she was interrupted by the Judge, who asked her various leading questions, the answers to which always reflected unfavorably to the Dies Committee, with regard to the allegation that the Dies Committee had declared the Youth Congress was not subversive. She was undoubtedly referring to the report dated January 3, 1940 appearing on pages 9 and 10 in the volume "Investigation of UnAmerican propaganda in the United States, 76th Congress, 3rd Session, Union Calender number 5, report number 1476", at which it was stated, "in the case of American Youth Congress, the Committee finds a central organization which has no membership of its own, but which attempts to affiliate the largest possible number of organizations of American young people, the vast majority of whom have no connection with communism, nazism or any movement of the sort, but are members of some of the most necessary and valuable organizations which our country possesses." "The Young Communist League as well as other organizations in which the Communists have played an important part, is affiliated with the American Youth Congress and testimony has been presented to the Committee to indicate that this minority group, has at times, asserted an influence on the American Youth Congress out of all proportion to its size. The

committee was unable to see how it was possible for this or any other organization of American Youth claiming to preserve and vitalize the American Institution and life of America, to expect to promote that work by including within its ranks those who do not believe in democracy, but believe in a contrary philosophy of life and form of Government."

The Judge, ROCKWELL KENT, then asked the defendant's witness if he had anything to say. This witness, who was acting the part of a clown, gazed at FRANCES WILLIAMS and stated, "I know she is a Communist". The Judge asked him how he knew, and after thinking a while he replied, "Well, I had a maid, who had a friend, which friend had been told by a friend of hers that this friend of hers had heard that this party was a communist". This caused a great deal of laughter from the audience.

The next witness was MORRIS WATSON, Secretary, National Labor Committee Against War, Secretary, American Peace Mobilization, Vice President, American Newspaper Guild. He commenced by stating that the American Peace Mobilization had started in Chicago, Illinois on Labor day of 1939 and had been growing in influence and power since that time. He told how the American Peace Mobilization had not been molested by the Dies Committee until they decided to start a peace vigil by the White House, after which they were accused of being reds, communists and all sorts of other isms. He stated that he guessed that any one who believed in peace was a red or a communist. The Judge asked him "Do you have any good reasons for wanting Peace", at which WATSON answered, "I was wounded twice in the last War and when I returned after four years of overseas service, I pounded the pavements looking for a job, which the employers had promised to give the men when they returned, but which promise they failed to keep". He also stated that he had a son who is nearing military age and if this country were plunged into war, the son would be of military age before the war was over. WATSON spoke of how the Dies Committee had subpoenaed SARAH V. MONTGOMERY, Head of the Washington Peace Mobilization in 1939 about ten days before the life of the Dies Committee had expired. This subpoena directed SARAH V. MONTGOMERY to bring all her records to the Dies Committee hearing rooms. WATSON stated that he guessed Dies wanted her to take a truck and load all the files and other records and rush them right up to his committee before the committee life expired. It was related that MONTGOMERY refused to answer the subpoena under the claim it was not specific as to the records wanted. The matter was argued by counsel and inasmuch as it was settled in ten days and the life of the Dies Committee had expired, it was presumed that the subpoena died with the life of the committee, therefore no further action was necessary in that instance. He related how

after the Dies Committee had been given new life, SARAH V. MONTGOMERY was again subpoenaed to furnish the records of the Washington Peace Mobilization. She again refused to answer the subpoena upon the ground, "the Dies Committee was created and empowered for the purpose of investigation unAmerican and subversive activities and as the American Peace Mobilization was an American Committee and made up of good American citizens, it was not a subversive organization and therefore the Dies Committee subpoena as to SARAH V. MONTGOMERY was without effect." She was not required to testify.

WATSON further spoke about how the Dies Committee had made accusations against him before and how Dies had recently acquired the services of a Miss MARY SPARGO, who WATSON stated "is a member of my union, the Newspaper Writers Guild and who is presumably intelligent". He thereupon proceeded to discredit MARY SPARGO and related how during the hearing before the Dies Committee, Miss SPARGO had stated that he, WATSON, was Vice President of the Associated Press and how JERRY VOORHIS of the Committee, realizing Miss SPARGO was in a tough spot, tried to direct questions to her in order that she might recover herself. However, the more VOORHIS questioned her, the further mixed up she became. WATSON stated it was not necessary for him to deny such statement because the stupidity of the statement was too apparent. Anyhow, he stated, "we all know Miss SPARGO'S testimony was full of lies and spurious remarks which was all instituted by the Dies Committee in an attempt to discredit our organization and in an effort to intimidate the various members of the American Peace Mobilization!" WATSON stated "Dies is a tintype politician, who can't fool all of the people all of the time".

The next witness was JULES YANOVER, Executive Secretary of the Bookshop, a cooperative store with offices at 916 17th Street, Northwest, Washington, D. C., who related how the Bookshop's records had recently been seized from their counsel Mr. DAVID McCALMONT, then General Counsel of the District of Columbia Cooperative League, but who has reportedly been ousted without much effort. Upon the mention of McCALMONT'S name the crowd hissed. YANOVER stated he wanted the people to know that the list seized was out of date, incorrect and did not truly represent the members of the Bookshop. He further stated that some of the cards contained in the list had been marked by McCALMONT, some with an S and some with an R, and he asked the Judge if he might tell the audience what these particular marks meant. Upon being given permission to do so, he related that the R stood for ROCHDALEITE and the S stood for STALINITES. YANOVER reported that the Bookshop gave a book to members each month from the dividends and that the books given were not subversive but nevertheless the Dies Committee had claimed that the books were subversive and that the Bookshop was a communistic outfit.

He related that included in the list was also a list of various speakers upon whom clubs etc. called to fill speaking engagements on certain occasions. The Judge thereupon inquired if amongst the list of speakers there were anyone of prominence, whereupon YANOVER advised that among the list was included SHERWOOD ANDERSON and Mrs. FRANKLYN D. ROOSEVELT. The Judge also asked YANOVER if the Bookshop had ever given away any subversive books at which YANOVER stated, "Yes, one of our books which was recently given, was claimed to be subversive". The Judge thereupon inquired as to which book YANOVER referred and YANOVER replied, "it was one of your books your honor, 'This is My Own' by ROCKWELL KENT!". The Judge also asked YANOVER if the Bookshop would remove certain books from their shelves because of the attack of the Dies Committee and YANOVER replied, "the Bookshop will not remove any books from its shelves for the Dies Committee or any other committee".

YANOVER also went into a discourse about how he had spent 25¢ of the Bookshop's money and sent a telegram to the Honorable MARTIN DIES, requesting permission to testify before the Dies Committee. He related that to date, however, he had received no permission to testify nor had he received an acknowledgement of his telegram.

The Judge next asked the Defendant's witness what he knew about books and the witness replied, "I have read books, I read JAMES FINIMORE COOPER'S 'The Last of the Mohicans', whereupon he gave several Indian war whoops and stated "they were all Reds".

PETER HAWLEY, member, Executive Board, United Office and Professional Workers of America, was the next witness, who represented Labor. HAWLEY commenced by stating "Labor is the core and nucleus around which the American people can rally". He then referred to the great importance of the laboring class and the Labor movement in connection with maintaining the various freedoms in America during these perilous times. He dealt some time on the case of two Government workers, whose names were not mentioned, but who had been arrested for distributing leaflets at the Washington Navy Yard, which leaflets were calling upon various Labors to unite and join a Union. He took great pride in stating that it was necessary that these two individuals be released inasmuch as the Supreme Court had rendered a decision to the effect that the principals of American freedom recognized the right of individuals and Labor Unions to distribute leaflets calling upon their fellow laborers to organize. In HAWLEY'S opinion this was an instance in which the Wisdom of the Supreme

Court deterred the friends of Labor from carrying out some of their Labor baiting activities.

HAWLEY also devoted some time to the Vinson Bill (H.R. 4139) which deals with strikes in defense industries. He denounced the bill claiming it was anti Labor and was a serious menace to all organized Labor and called upon all free-loving peoples for popular support in securing the defeat of the Vinson Bill, which HAWLEY stated had the administration's backing. In HAWLEY'S opinion this bill was no more than an underhanded effort in the guise of National Defense, to take away the rights of the laboring class, in order that the Administration might more easily further their great war cause.

HAWLEY also dealt at some length, on the discrimination of negroes in National Defense jobs, particularly attacking the GLENN L. MARTIN Company of Baltimore, Maryland for failure to hire negro laborers.

JOHN P. DAVIS, colored, Secretary, National Negro Congress, was called as the next witness in role of representing the negro. DAVIS received a very hearty applause and is to be considered as an intelligent and convincing speaker. DAVIS related that the Dies Committee did not bother the National Negro Congress in 1938, nor did they bother to subpoena any officers of the organization in 1938; however, DAVIS stated in 1939 WALTER S. STEELE testified before the Dies Committee making certain allegations that such and such an organization was red, communistic or nazi controlled. STEELE also, according to DAVIS had taken it upon himself to submit a lengthy treatise outlining the various reasons as to why the National Negro Congress was red and communistic. This treatise by STEELE was not made public nor was the National Negro Congress advised that such evidence had been introduced against them. However, on January 1, 1939, the hearing of the Dies Committee was published and on page 681 of the hearings, appeared all the reasons why the National Negro Congress was communistic. DAVIS made very much of the point that no officers of the National Negro Congress had had an opportunity to testify against these charges, nor was the public aware that the material had been submitted until its publication in January. He considered this some more of Dies' underhanded methods at vilifying those people who saw fit to crusade for peace and to better the role of the American negro.

DAVIS also told how he had eventually in 1939, received a subpoena from the Dies Committee to appear before the committee and give testimony. Prior to that day, DAVIS' wife called DAVIS, advising him that she had received a telephone call from RAY WHITLEY'S Secretary, WHITLEY then being connected with the Dies Committee, to the effect that DAVIS need not make his appearance at the hearing in answer to the subpoena. DAVIS, desiring to be sure of the matter and not to be held in contempt, telephonically contacted the Honorable MARTIN DIES, asking if it were true that he need not appear before the committee. It was related that Dies informed DAVIS that DAVIS need not worry, as the Dies Committee did not take advantage of anyone. DAVIS replied, "I am not so sure of that Mr. Congressman", whereupon Congressman Dies is alleged to have stated, "All right, go to hell" and hung up. DAVIS then stated that "that is the only testimony I have ever given before the Dies Committee".

DAVIS further related how he and the National Negro Congress had drawn up a 14 page denial of the various accusations made by STEELE in the Dies Committee reports and how this 14 page denunciation was sent registered mail to the speaker of the house with a request that the same be published for the benefit of the public. DAVIS informed the audience that it was a known fact that the Speaker of the House had received this correspondence, inasmuch as the return receipt had been received and was on file at the offices of the National Negro Congress. He further stated that even though the correspondence had been sent to the speaker of the House, the National Negro Congress had never received a reply nor had the information ever been made public, which goes to show the courtesy with which some members of Congress show toward certain groups of people.

The next speaker scheduled for the evening was HENRIETTA BUCKMASTER, author of the book "Let My People Go", who is supposed to have appeared as a representative of writers. She was not able to appear, the explanation being offered that she had a book which it was necessary to send to press and therefore she needed all her time to carry out this task. However, she sent a statement to be read to the audience, which statement was read by a young man named YIDDEL, who is alleged to be from the Bookshop. YIDDEL was a very poor reader and it was impossible to understand or to make any sense out of the message he was selected to deliver. The gist of the message appeared to be that Americans were in jeopardy of losing democracy unless they fought through the bitter struggles. It was related how the early American settlers had fought for liberty upon their arrival at Plymouth in 1620; how BUCKMASTER'S ancestors had gladly given their lives in the war of 1776; how her brother had fought in the Civil war to keep freedom alive and how, while the war was going on, she remembered her

mother singing her to sleep by the tune of "John Brown's Body".

The next individual introduced to the audience was MURIEL DRAPER, who was supposed to represent the ordinary citizen. She began by advising that she had just received information with regard to several resolutions passed by various locals and she would like to take the opportunity to have representatives of these locals read these resolutions to the gathering. Thereupon KENNETH WOODWARD, a Negro representing Local 136, United Shoe Workers' Union, read a resolution which had been adopted by his local condemning the Dies Committee and unanimously resolving that the Dies Committee must be dissolved. Upon the completion of WOODWARD'S reading, HENRY THOMAS, a Negro, representing the United Construction Workers' Union, CIO, Washington, D. C. read a resolution of his union condemning the Dies Committee and resolving the dissolution of the Dies Committee. THOMAS advised the audience that in the adoption of this resolution, it was unanimous and involved no discussion on the part of the union members because they were so greatly aware of the importance of their resolution.

It was related that a copy of the above resolutions would be forwarded to the President, Speaker of the House and to Chairman Dies. MURIEL DRAPER then took the stage and proceeded to denounce the F. B. I. and the Dies Committee, calling them sleuths and belittling their work. She related how many individuals in the Government service were being intimidated and persecuted because they saw fit to believe in peace and freedom. She stated that she was aware that the majority of the audience present were Government workers and she wanted to advise them that the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties was going to defend every Government employee against any interference or discrimination either against the Dies Committee, against the F. B. I. or any other group seeking to intimidate. She related that the above committees had hired one of the most able lawyers in the country to defend anyone and reminded the audience that thus far the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberty had not lost a single case which they had taken upon themselves to defend.

As an illustration of the discrimination and intimidation of various Government employees, she referred to the Civil Service Commission's rule number 222, entitled "Removal of Undesirable Persons from the Government Service", which according to her interpretation, gave the heads of various Governmental Agencies the power to dismiss any employee they might so desire, without stating

the reasons for the dismissal, just so long as the Civil Service Commission had been advised of the discharge. She stated anyone who could understand English was aware of the consequences of such a rule, that it entitled the various Governmental Agencies to dismiss employees without permitting them a hearing; however, she boasted the National Committee for Democratic Action and the National Federation for Constitutional Liberty, had made such a hue and cry over rule 222 that the Civil Service Commission had been forced to change the rule, permitting a hearing in any case which might be requested by the Committee for Democratic Action or the National Federation for Constitutional Liberty.

The particular rule number 222 which was attacked by MURIEL DRAPER, and comments thereon, were set out in the booklet entitled "Witch Hunt 1941 Hits Government Workers", particularly on pages 10 thru 12, a copy of which has previously been submitted to the Bureau and copies of which are being forwarded with this report.

MURIEL DRAPER also spoke at some length concerning the MARGARET OSTROV NOVEMBER case and JULIUS SCHLESINGER, which is also referred to in the above booklet, pages 13 thru 23.

After MURIEL DRAPER had fanned the flames of hatred in the manner of an agitator in preparation of her next move, she thereupon informed the audience that in order to carry on the great work of defending Government employees, it would be necessary to have funds and inasmuch as neither the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, nor the National Federation for Constitutional Liberty was being subsidized by the Government, it was necessary that the Government employees, the friends of Labor and other freedom-loving people contribute these necessary funds in order that the good work might be carried forward. She thereupon called for solicitations from the audience, starting off with \$10.00 amounts. The first contribution was for \$10.00 from an individual giving his name as BOB GREENBURG (phonetic) and \$10.00 from a group of employees of the Labor Department, names not mentioned. The \$10.00 amounts were not contributed in an enthusiastic manner and the amount was therefore dropped to \$5.00. Several pledges for this amount were made but it was impossible to obtain the names of those making the contributions. The next contributions were asked in the amount of \$1.00 bills and various individuals passed through the audience with little boxes and hats collecting the various dollar bills contributed. Those who were not able to offer \$1.00

bills were requested to contribute what small amounts they could afford, which amounts were taken up by various individuals throughout the audience. The names of the individuals making the smaller contributions were not announced, nor was the total amount for the evening revealed. This procedure lasted for approximately 25 or 30 minutes, during which time the whole proceedings was pretty much of a picnic.

The next witness introduced was WELLINGTON RHODES or ROE, a writer who was not originally scheduled to speak, but who apparently had been recruited in the final stages. This individual devoted his efforts to convincing the audience that Miss MARY SPARGO and JAN VALTIN had given false testimony to the public and to the Dies Committee. He denounced SPARGO and definitely stated that her testimony before the Dies Committee was nothing more than lies and spurious attacks upon individuals with whom she was really not acquainted. As for JAN VALTIN, he related that he was well acquainted with VALTIN and had interviewed him while he was staying at a farm house in Connecticut prior to the publication of "Out of the Night". He related how during the interview, RHODES or ROE had asked VALTIN if he was acquainted with MOONEY, BILLINGS or McNAMARA, who were in San Quentin Penitentiary during the period VALTIN was supposed to have been incarcerated there and VALTIN had informed him he was not acquainted with these three individuals; however, in VALTIN'S book "Out of the Night" it is related how while he was in San Quentin, he formed communist party cells throughout the prison. In light of these facts RHODES stated it merely proved that VALTIN was merely giving the public many incompatible facts and RHODES reasoned that it does not seem possible that an individual could be so popular throughout San Quentin and still not be acquainted with MOONEY, BILLINGS OR McNAMARA, who were the most popular inmates in San Quentin during that period of time.

RHODES further related how during the interview VALTIN had informed that he was not acquainted with nor had he had any dealings with KRIVITSKY; however, in VALTIN'S book "Out of the Night" pages 183 to 186 VALTIN related how he had worked with KRIVITSKY while in France. From these facts RHODES concluded it was apparent to any individual who would assemble the facts, that VALTIN was merely publishing a group of grotesque falsehoods.

RHODES further made the allegation that the idea for the book "Out of the Night" was conceived by ISAAC DON LEVINE, who hired BENJAMIN MANDEL of Washington, D. C. through cooperation with the Dies Committee, to conduct research work to obtain facts for the basis of the story. To prove RHODES contention that the Dies Committee had hired BENJAMIN MANDEL to do research work in

this instance, RHODES noted from the financial statement of the Dies Committee, which reflected the payment of \$300.00 to BENJAMIN MANDEL in January 1940. Further noted from the statement, RHODES quoted several payments of money by the Dies Committee to J. B. MATTHEWS, an investigator for the Dies Committee, which money the financial statement reflected was used for the purpose of paying confidential informants. At this point RHODES digressed and informed the audience that the money with which MATTHEWS was supposed to have paid confidential informants probably accounted for the new pair of shoes that MATTHEWS was recently seen wearing.

With regard to the Dies Committee expenditures for the payment of confidential informants RHODES advised he had inquired of Congressman COFFEE, Democrat - Washington, as to whether or not it was proper for Congressional Committees to make payments to individuals and not to disclose the identity of those parties. Congressman COFFEE supposedly informed RHODES that whenever a Congressional Committee made expenditures the names of the organizations or individuals to whom the money was paid should be set forth showing their true names; however, in this instance said RHODES, the Dies Committee did not see fit to report the two parties to whom the expenditures were paid, which all leads credence to the belief that MATTHEWS was also working in conjunction with LEVINE, MANDEL and VALTIN in the writing of the book "Out of the Night". RHODES further informed that a great deal of the material appearing in this book is nothing more than a re-hash of various allegations and slanderous statements which appeared in various reports of the Dies Committee since its inception.

The facts of VALTIN'S connection in San Quentin prison and his connection with ISAAC DON LEVINE and others who befriended him was admitted by VALTIN in an article in the "Reader's Digest" entitled "American Dawn". This was the May 1941 publication, pages 13 thru 21; however the facts as related by VALTIN in this article are not as condemning as when related by WELLINGTON RHODES.

It might be stated at this point that Representative COFFEE was, according to statements of RHODES, present in the audience the night of this particular meeting, but it had been necessary for Congressman COFFEE to leave prior to the conclusion of the meeting.

The files of [FOIA(b)(7)-(D)] whose identify has heretofore been made known to the Bureau, contained a newspaper clipping from the Washington Post of January 16, 1940 to the effect that Representative COFFEE - Democrat - Washington, on January 15, 1940 spoke at a meeting "Stop Dies Donor Dinner" sponsored by the American League for Peace and Democracy. During the course of the speech COFFEE labeled DIES as part of the "Conspiracy" to destroy "the Liberal cause and the New Deal". He also labeled the Dies Investigation a "Witch hunt and Bogey chase".

The next individual to take the floor was DOXEY WILKERSON, Professor of education, Howard University, who spoke as a representative of education and who is well known to the Washington Field Office for his connection with various communistic activities. WILKERSON derided the present day tendency of cutting the budget's public education. He stated that the best qualified and most liberal instructors in the various colleges throughout the nation are being let out of jobs. He said that just because certain professors were progressive and wanted their children as well as other people's children to receive a democratic education in the school room, they were being accused of being reds and communists. He attacked the action of the Rappe-Coudert Committee in New York for their actions against leading teachers in the New York Public School system. According to WILKERSON the teachers who have been dismissed from the Public Schools of New York are the very same teachers who have been leading the fight for more schools, smaller classes and better teaching conditions and because of these facts they are said to be subversive.

At this point the Judge stopped WILKERSON to inquire as to whether or not the teachers and professors in the New York Public School system who had been dismissed were of a type which would not be a credit to the profession, whereupon WILKERSON stated he would relate a slight incident which took place before the hearings of the Coudert Committee to illustrate his answer. WILKERSON thereupon stated that during the hearings of some of the professors before the Coudert Committee, one of the members of the Committee started to set forth the various qualifications of some of the professors who were labeled as being red. Before this member of the Committee finished his task, he was interrupted by another member of the Committee, who advised that it was not well to publicize the fitness and qualities of these various professors, inasmuch as it would be evident that they were the most capable in the entire school system.

The next speaker was MAXWELL WEISSMAN from New York City. This individual had been originally scheduled to address the meeting but was selected to tell the audience about the Rappe-Coudert Committee of New York. WEISSMAN advised that he was one of the 27 instructors who had been dismissed by the Coudert Committee and he as well as the remaining 26 had been given no right to defend themselves, no right to counsel and no chance to prove the falsity of the charges which were placed against them. According to WEISSMAN, the original purpose of the Coudert Committee was to make a thorough study of the Public School system of New York, in an effort to cut down the Public School Appropriations; however, shortly after the committee was formed, this same committee established a sub-committee for the purpose of investigating subversive activities in the Public educational system. Pressure was brought to bear from the top of the political ladder, in order that the expenditures for education could be so reduced that the Government would be free to exercise complete control over the educational system and to train young minds in the War theory as the leader of the Government saw fit. He charged that the minority of the people, through the actions of the Coudert Committee, were endeavoring to cut the budgets which would lead to overcrowded classes, censored text books and eventually to the creating of War hysteria and the regimentation of the minds of the pupils. According to WEISSMAN, those teachers who had fought against these slashes and who had endeavored to secure better salaries for the teachers, were labeled communists and dismissed from their jobs. He said, "what are the facts", and he then related that the latest school budget for the State of New York had been reduced in an amount slightly over \$5,000,000.00. Two thousand teachers had been dropped from the educational system and the Townshend Harris School had been closed.

WEISSMAN also reported that the majority of the instructors who had been dismissed were of the Jewish race and the high percent of the Coudert Committee had given rise to a wave of anti-Semitism and he exhibited several post-cards which he had received tending to bear out his statements. He also quoted from PAUL GALICO'S book, "Farewell to Sports", under the section on basketball, wherein GALICO had stated that it seems as though when it came to basketball, the Jewish Youth was more outstanding in this sport than in any other. GALICO stated the reason advanced for this was because the Jewish Youth was alert, shifty and had a keen eye, but he could not understand why this theory had been so worked to death and the theory of the "sexual attraction" advanced in its place.

Certain pamphlets entitled "It is happening in New York" were distributed at the meeting, which pamphlets set forth various facts concerning the Coudert Committee and its actions against the teachers union and the public school system of New York. A copy of this pamphlet is being included as an inclosure with this report.

The next speaker of the evening was HUGH B. MILLER, Chairman, Washington Committee for Democratic Action, who appeared as a representative of Government Workers. MILLER related how the Dies Committee and the F. B. I., the Civil Service Commission and various other investigative agencies had been intimidating Government employees and the steps taken to counteract this action. He stated that the Government employees are human and as human beings desired to eat and have a home in which to live and raise their families and just because the workers felt their needs could be better satisfied by joining a union, they were being discriminated against. He said in fact that in Washington, D. C., the per capita expenditure for help was 95¢ while according to Dr. RHULAND of the Public Health Service, the average per capita expenditure felt throughout the United States was \$2.50. He called upon the various Government workers to unite in carrying out their program for better wages, better working conditions and better living conditions in the District of Columbia.

FREDERICK MEYERS (this is alleged to be an alias - at the present time his true name is unknown) National Field Organizer, National Maritime Union, stated that in 1936, Maritime workers had gone on a strike because the employers did not wish to give higher wages. Because of the strike the Maritime Union and the workers constituting the same were branded as communist stooges of Moscow and connected with other subversive organizations. He stated however, that the more the charges of communism were hurled against the Maritime Union and the members of the Union, the stronger the Union became, because the people were able to see what the Dies Committee was really doing. "When we were called reds, we got higher wages, when they called us communists, we got shorter hours. If that is what Communism means, then I am a communist." MEYERS attacked WM. McQUISTON, alleging that McQUISTON had killed a union officer in New Orleans, Louisiana and during the course of the trial had been defended by the Judge and subsequently freed because of the influence of the Dies Committee. He attacked ARTHUR THOMAS, who was alleged to be in the country illegally and when tried on a deportation charge was defended by the Dies Committee, which committee even sent an Agent of the Committee by the name of BIRMINGHAM to serve as a character witness in the proceeding and due to the influence of the Dies Committee in this instance THOMAS was permitted to go free. He also attacked JERRY KING, whom he stated had murdered a man in New York

was tried and acquitted in the courts of New York, all because of the influence brought to bear by the Dies Committee.

MEYERS informed the audience that he was in HAMBURG, Germany in 1933 and he knew all about Hitler, and in his opinion the "dictates of this Fuehrer in the White House is the same as Hitler's. They are both fakers. They both are using the same blueprint and all blueprints are alike. Their principal is to gradually take away the liberties of the people and establish themselves as supreme dictators".

MEYERS also made the allegation that the Dies Committee was backed by big business such as the Standard Oil Interest, the Sun Oil Company and the Gulf Oil Company and others. He related that these large oil companies have a port at Port Arthur Texas near Orange, Texas where "this guy Dies screams from". MEYERS stated that of course it was in the interest of big business to aid the Dies Committee in trying to convince the people that the laboring class was wrong when they endeavored to secure higher wages, shorter hours and better working conditions. He stated that MARTIN DIES was only a small part of Texas and he asked the audience "do you know that the majority of people in his District are not responsible for electing him to the United States Congress? Do you know how he gets these votes?" MEYERS thereupon answered the questions by stating that the Chief of Police BACON of Orange Texas is the campaign manager of MARTIN DIES and when the time for election rolls around, the Police Department goes to the red light district on the outskirts of the city and informs the girls who are "hustling" in that territory, that they must vote for MARTIN DIES or they will be thrown in jail. If they are willing to vote for MARTIN DIES they are then given a reprieve and permitted to carry on their "hustling activities", until the next election rolls around."

MEYERS during the course of his talk also denounced HOMER MARTIN, BEN GITLOW, JACK ZACK and JOHN FRYE as being renegades and soreheads.

Rev. WILLIAM B. SPOFFORD, who was slated to be a representative of the Church according to the program did not appear, nor was any mention made as to the reason for his absence.

The meeting was concluded by a summation in a very brief manner by ROCKWELL KENT of the information heretofore reported, at the conclusion of which it was requested that all in favor of denouncing the Dies Committee signify their approval by stating "Aye" at which time it was apparent that the "Aye's" had it.

Prior to the above reported meeting, Mr. J. R. BARTLY, Night Supervisor, National Press Club Building, was requested to place a trash coverage in the auditorium at the completion of the meeting. This material which was obtained through BARTLY consisted only of various pamphlets which had been left by members of the audience, some copies of which are being forwarded to the Bureau and some of which are being retained in the Washington Field Office File.

ENCLOSURES: To the Bureau

Two copies of a petition to the Congress of the United States for the Passage of S-1456.

Two copies of "Is Your Phone Safe".

Two copies of "Free Speech", Newsletter of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

Two copies of "A Bill of Duties for the American People".

Two copies of "The Way to Keep Free Speech is to Speak".

One copy of "Safeguard the Bill of Rights".

One copy of "It is Happening in New York".

Two copies of "Witch Hunt 1941 hits Government Workers".

One copy "Oklahoma Story" by Rev. Owen A. Knox.

One copy of "Harry Bridges" by Dalton Trumbo.

One copy of "Investigating Committees and Civil Rights".

Two copies of a circular advertising "Public Hearing - The People vs. the Dies Committee".

One copy of "The Wiretapping Bill".

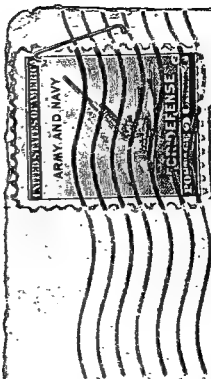
UNDEVELOPED LEADS

THE WASHINGTON FIELD DIVISION

AT WASHINGTON, D. C., will continue to conduct and report investigation with reference to the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

PENDING

J. M. Miller
2205 Calif. St.
City



Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington

P.C.



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gmh
EWT:WGR

August 11, 1941

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ASSISTANT TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
MR. MATTHEW F. McGUIRE

RE: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION,
NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES.

On July 25, 1941 I forwarded to you a memorandum containing information available concerning the captioned organizations. By memorandum dated July 31, 1941, you advised that the above organizations could be considered "subversive" within the meaning of the paragraph in the appropriation bill for the Department of Justice for the year 1942 which allocated \$100,000 of the appropriation for the investigation of Government employees who are members of "subversive organizations or advocate the overthrow of the Federal Government."

Pursuant to your memorandum of July 31, 1941, investigation was initiated by this Bureau in an effort to ascertain the identity of Government employees affiliated with these organizations. It was determined that on or about August 1, 1941 the records and active indices of these organizations had been removed from the place at which they were formerly kept.

Inasmuch as this removal apparently occurred subsequent to the rendering of your decision, it would appear that this information may have been made available to the leaders of these organizations. This fact has, of course, not been definitely established but in view of the obstacles which such action has created in hindering successful investigative activity with respect to these organizations, it was felt advisable to bring this matter to your attention for such consideration as you deem advisable.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED

John Edgar Hoover
Director

100-4590-23

RECEIVED BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

AUG 23 1941 A.M.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

CH-26

ORIGINAL FILED IN 66-6200-101-106

MJC:MBC
100-283

Washington, D. C.
August 20, 1941

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL
LIBERTIES and WASHINGTON COMMITTEE
FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION.
INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that on July 11, 1941, [redacted]
FOIA(b)(7)-(D) of the Washington Field Division furnished the
following pamphlets and articles concerning the local chapters
of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and
the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, both located
at 1410 H Street, N. W.:

One pamphlet entitled "Keeping Elections Free," pub-
lished by The Committee on Free Elections, 100 Fifth
Avenue, New York City, which is a sub-committee of the
National Federation for Constitutional Liberties.
It is to be noted that on the rear of this booklet
are contained the name of DASHIELL HAMMETT, Chairman
of the Committee on Free Elections, and also the
officers and various executive members of the National
Federation for Constitutional Liberties.

One pamphlet "Civil Liberties in The Present Crisis,"
written by EDWIN S. SMITH, Member of the National Labor
Relations Board and published by the National Federation
for Constitutional Liberties, which pamphlet contains
a speech delivered at the Mass Meeting of the National
Action Conference for Civil Rights held under the
auspices of the National Federation for Constitutional
Liberties and the Washington Committee for Democratic
Action at the National Press Club Auditorium, Washington,
D. C., Sunday, April 20, 1941.

One announcement published by the National Federation

RECEIVED
FBI
DIVISION OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 20 5 32 PM '41

ORIGINAL FILED IN 100-1170-122

BEHIND FILE

BEHIND FILE

RECORDS SECTION

RECORDED

100-4590-24
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
AUG 26 1941
U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FIVE

CH-26

Director
Re: NFCL and NCDA
August 20, 1941
WJC:MHC; 100-283

for Constitutional Liberties, which outlined the program of that organization, why it was organized, and how to further the organization of that alleged Communist Front group.

One announcement entitled "The Way to Keep Free Speech Is to Speak," published by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and advising those interested how they can protect their rights and those organizations who wished to become affiliated with the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties the procedure to be followed.

One announcement entitled "A Bill of Duties for the American People" which article was prepared and adopted by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, April 20, 1941, and advised that all organizations are free to adopt the Bill of Duties as an instrument for the present day maintenance of the Bill of Rights.

One announcement entitled "No Concentration Camps in America," distributed by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, which announcement was published by the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, and which advised the individuals receiving this announcement to vote against the Hobbs Concentration Camp Bill. It is to be noted that the announcement gave the national office of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born as being 79 Fifth Avenue, New York City, and on the rear of the pamphlet are contained the names of the various officers of the organization.

One folder entitled "Is Your Phone Safe?" which folder contained the inside story of the wire-tapping bill.

Director
Re: NPCL and NCDA
August 20, 1941
MJC:MEC; 100-253

by various newspapermen, and which article was published by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties.

One mimeographed announcement entitled "The Draft Act and Your Rights," published by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, which announcement dealt with the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940 and went into detail concerning said Act.

One pamphlet entitled "No Gestapo in America," which contained a radio address by VITO MARGANTONIO, Congressman from New York City, which pamphlet was distributed by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and published by the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, 503 F Street, N.W.

The Informant further advised that the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties distributed a mimeographed statement made by Dr. MAX YERGAN, Head of the National Negro Congress, which statement had to do with his non-reappointment as lecturer in Negro History at the College of the City of New York, New York City. This article dealt with YERGAN's dismissal from the College and contained pertinent information dealing with his appearance before the Rapp-Coudert Committee, which Committee is presently engaged in the investigation of alleged Communist professors in the City of New York.

FOIA(b)(7)-(D) advised that the Washington Committee for Democratic Action is at present distributing the following pamphlets and literature:

One mimeographed article entitled "Free Speech," dated May, 1941, which is a newsletter of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and which contains various

Director
Re: NFGL and WCDA
August 20, 1941
HJC:MEG; 100-263

demands, among which were 7,000 jobs for negroes at the Glenn L. Martin Plant, no concentration camps here, the Hobbs wire-tapping bill, and also an article concerning the action taken by the United Federal Workers of America regarding the case of MARGARET NOVEMBER, an alleged notorious Communist in the District of Columbia.

An Action Letter which was a protest to the Civil Service Commission regarding the dismissal of MORRIS TEPPING, an alleged notorious Communist and head of the Washington Youth Council, an alleged Communist Front organization, which letter dealt with his dismissal from the Social Security Board.

A release by the Washington Committee for Democratic Action which dealt with a protest against the recent action of the Dies Committee in sending its Agents to question Government workers in their offices on Government time, which protest was sent to Speaker RAYBURN by the Washington Committee for Democratic Action and which letter of protest was quoted in the above-mentioned release, two copies of which are being forwarded to the Bureau.

A Petition to the Congress of the United States, likewise distributed by the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, which Petition was prepared by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and which called for the right to form and join organizations of the people's own choosing and the right to bargain collectively, to strike and to picket. Two copies of this Petition are being forwarded to the Bureau.

A pamphlet entitled "Safeguard the Bill of Rights," published by the Washington Committee for Democratic Action,

Director
Re: NFGL and NCDA
August 20, 1941
MJC:MEC; 100-263

which article set forth various parts of the Constitution of the United States, followed by statements as to what should be demanded under the particular article of the Constitution so that the liberties of the people of this Democracy may be saved.

One booklet entitled "HARRY BRIDGES" and written by DALTON TRUMBO, which was published by the Harry Bridges Defense Committee, 593 Market Street, San Francisco, Calif., and which booklet is being distributed by the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

One pamphlet entitled "Proposals for Action" at the National Action Conference for Civil Rights, Washington, D. C., April 19-20, 1941, published by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, which pamphlet is a summary of the proposals adopted by that Conference. The pamphlet urges both organizations and individuals to take the action outlined. Various proposals contained in the pamphlet concerned the BRIDGES case, the rights of Government workers, the persecution of petition signers, the repeal of poll tax, the vote for the people of Washington, secret ballot for all Americans, etc.

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

furnished page 3 of a mimeographed announcement, and this is being forwarded to the Bureau, due to the fact that this announcement deals with the Dies Committee and also the speech made by former Attorney General JACKSON, delivered May 7, 1941, before the American Judicature Society and which speech they termed as "a direct incitement to and an advanced apology for lawlessness by law enforcing officials." Contact will be made with the Informant in order to obtain a

Director
Re: NFCL and WCDA
August 20, 1941
WJC:MRC; 100-283

complete copy of this announcement.

[FOIA(b)(7) - (D)] of the Washington Field Division furnished a letter published by the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, dated June 13, 1941, and addressed to "Dear Friend," which letter has to do with the "Dias Committee Detective Agency Extraordinary." This letter advised friends of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action that if agents from the Dias Committee called upon them they were to obtain counsel and that the individuals appearing need answer only questions pertinent to the legitimate purposes of the Committee; and, furthermore, that they need not appear at all unless a Committee member, that is, a Congressman, is actually present. This letter was signed by HUGH MILLER as Chairman for the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, husband of HELEN MILLER nee SCHNETZLER, presently being investigated by the Washington Field Division and who was dismissed recently from the Labor Department due to alleged Communist activities.

[FOIA(b)(7) - (D)] Another letter furnished by [FOIA(b)(7) - (D)] dated July 1, 1941, addressed to "Dear Friend," advised that immediate action is required to safeguard "Labor's Right to Strike," and that the most dangerous measure right now is the May-Cornally amendment to the Selective Service Act which, they advise, contains the worst features of the Vinson Bill. This letter further called for immediate protest to Congress concerning the above-mentioned Bill and other anti-labor legislation, and advised organizations to be prompt in taking action. This letter was likewise signed by HUGH MILLER as Chairman of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

The informant further furnished carbon copies of the two letters mentioned above, and same are being retained in the files of the Washington Field Division.

Director
Re: NFCL and NCDA
August 20, 1941
WJC:MEC; 100-283

All of the above periodicals, pamphlets, and announcements are being furnished to the Bureau for whatever purpose they may serve, and any additional information furnished by the informants will be forwarded to the Bureau.

Very truly yours,

C. K. McKEE
Special Agent in Charge

Enclosures

NOT USED
100-4590-25

m

CHANGED TO
100-262573-8

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

(BUREAU) - *ny*

FILE NO. 101-00

REPORT MADE AT OMAHA	DATE WHEN MADE 9/18/41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 9/16/41	REPORT MADE BY A. J. RAFFERTY FVB
TITLE WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - R HATCH ACT

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

Subject organization does not appear in Omaha indices.

- RUC -

REFERENCE:

Bureau teletype to all Special Agents in Charge, 9/11/41.

DETAILS:

At Omaha, Nebraska

The files of the Omaha Field Office fail to include the name of Subject organization. There is no indication of any individuals employed by the United States Government in Nebraska being affiliated with Subject organization.

- REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN -

COPIES DESTROYED
3-26-58
R. 42

DEC 10 1941
FBI
RECEIVED

APPROVED AND FORWARDED

SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES

COPIES OF THIS REPORT

- 5 Bureau
- 2 New York
- 2 Omaha

100-4590-26

SEP 28 1941
FIVE

RECORDED

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

PEF:GEG

September 15, 1941

Time: 4:05 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. A. TAMM

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Drayton _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Tour Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Mr. Thomas, Director of Personnel, Federal Power Commission, telephonically inquired concerning the character of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, stating that his agency has two employees who are members of this organization. I told him that, for his confidential information, the Department of Justice has ruled that within the meaning of Public Act 135 which directs this Bureau to investigate Government employees the Washington Committee for Democratic Action is to be considered a subversive organization. I pointed out to him that, if he desired an official opinion on this question, he should contact Judge Holtzoff or Mr. McGuire in the Department.

Respectfully,

P. E. Foxworth

U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
RECORDED
F. B. I.
SEP 13 11 53 AM '41

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CH-21

100-4590-27

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
7	SEP 25 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

TAMM
CARSON

GNW:eas

October 25, 1941

100-4590

RE: HUGH B. MILLER
Bituminous Coal Division
Internal Security
Hatch Act

The Washington Field Office has received information from a highly confidential source indicating that the name of the above-captioned person, reportedly employed by the Bituminous Coal Division, appears on the active indices of the following Communist Front organizations:

1. American Peace Mobilization
2. Washington Committee for Democratic Action
3. National Federation for Constitutional Liberties

It is further reported that this person's name appears on the active indices of the National Lawyers Guild, an alleged Communist Front organization.

In a pamphlet distributed by the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties condemning the action of the Dies Committee, Hugh B. Miller, Chairman of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, is shown as a witness at a mass meeting of protest.

From a review of press dispatches appearing in Washington newspapers, numerous references appear indicating considerable activity on the part of Hugh B. Miller in Communist Front organizations.

From a confidential source whose reliability is well known, it has been reported that one Hugh Miller, an attorney with the Bituminous Coal Division, is very radical in his political views.

It is to be noted that Hugh B. Miller is the husband of Helen Miller, who was summarily discharged by the Department of Labor subsequent to an investigation conducted by the Bureau concerning allegations that she was a member of subversive groups.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

Page 2

In the list of members of subversive groups prepared by Congressman Martin Dies, which was furnished the Attorney General by his letter dated October 17, 1941, Hugh B. Miller is referred to as a member of the Washington Book Shop and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, the latter organization of which he is shown to be Chairman. Mr. Miller is therein identified as a Senior Attorney in the Bituminous Coal Division earning \$4,000 per annum.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

NOT USED

100-4590-28, 29^{and} 30

CHANGED TO

100-262573-9, 10^{and} 11

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFM:MJ

Laboratory Report

November 18, 1941

File # 100-4590-31

Re: Investigation of Governmental
Employees; Hatch Act.

Lab # 60492

Examination requested by: Washington, D.C.

Feehan

Reference: 11-5-41

Examination requested: Document

Specimens:

Q1 Photostatic copy of document bearing at the head the typewritten words "Washington Committee for Democratic Action."

Results of the examination:

The conclusion was reached that the words "Washington Committee for Democratic Action" appearing at the top of specimen Q1 were typewritten on a machine equipped with Underwood Elite type spaced 12 letters to the inch.

It is noted that the original evidence was returned to the Washington Field Division by Special Agent Connolly. Photographic copies of specimen Q1 are being retained in the files of the laboratory.

- 1 Bureau
- 2 Washington, D. C.
- 1 Laboratory

100-4590-131

November 5, 1941

RCF:JR
60154

MR. TRACY

Re: Investigation of Governmental
Employees
Hatch Act.

Special Agent M. J. Connolly of the Washington Field Division called at my office on the evening of November 4, 1941 and requested that an examination be made of a photostatic copy of a document for the purpose of ascertaining the kind of a typewriter used to type the words "Washington Committee for Democratic Action" appearing at the top of the specimen. Special Agent Connolly was referred to Mr. Feehan, who made the examination.

It was concluded that the questioned typing appearing at the top of the specimen had been typed with a machine equipped with Underwood Elite type spaced 12 letters to the inch. The document was photographed and was returned to the Washington Field Division by Special Agent Connolly.

A copy of this memorandum is being sent to the Files Section in order to obtain a Bureau file number.

A report of this examination is being forwarded to the Washington Field Division within the next several days.

Respectfully,

E. P. Coffey

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F. B. I.
FED. EMPLOYEES UNIT
NOV 13 3 13 PM '41

100-4590-31
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
1 NOV 5 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
RECEIVED
FIVE DIVISION

COPY AND SPECIMENS RETAINED IN LAB



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

October 24, 1941

MCS:JR

9:30 AM

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Mr. Tolson ☒
Mr. E. A. Tamm ☒
Mr. Clegg ☐
Mr. Foxworth ☐
Mr. Glavin ☒
Mr. Ladd ☒
Mr. Nichols ☐
Mr. Rosen ☐
Mr. Carson ☐
Mr. Holloman ☐
Mr. Quinn Tamm ☐
Mr. Hendon ☐
Mr. Coffey ☐
Mr. Harbo ☐
Tele. Room ☐
Tour Room ☐
Mr. Nease ☐
Mr. Tracy ☐
Miss Beahm ☐
Miss Gandy ☐

Special Agent Tom Dawsey telephoned me from Bangor, Maine, advising he had endeavored to reach Mr. Carson, but since he was out he had asked to speak to me.

He stated that Mr. Carson talked with Special Agent W. J. West of Boston, inquiring regarding a Washington Committee for Democratic Action membership list which the Dies Committee said they obtained from Captain Earl Hartman, furthermore stating that Hartman states he secured it from Agent Dawsey of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Dawsey stated that a few days subsequent to the submission of his large report on the Washington Committee for Democratic Action some time in 1940, the date not recalled by Mr. Dawsey, the question arose of conducting investigations of the individuals named on the list as Internal Security cases. Mr. Dawsey had a discussion of this matter with former SAC Hottel of the Washington field office. Dawsey knew the Metropolitan Police of Washington, D. C., had a wealth of information on subversive matters, and at that time Captain Earl T. Hartman was head of the subversive squad of the Metropolitan Police. Messrs. Hottel and Dawsey contacted Captain Hartman, and thereafter Hartman called at the Washington field office.

Prior to Hartman's arrival, SAC Hottel had Dawsey take one copy of the mimeographed report reflecting the list of members in the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, and Dawsey took from that report the membership list, deleting everything except the names of the individuals. The final list when he finished with the deletions had nothing to indicate any connection with the Bureau, or any connection with the Washington Committee for Democratic Action; in other words, nothing appeared on the paper except the names of the individuals.

This list of names was then turned over by Hottel and Dawsey to Captain Hartman, with the explanation that the individuals whose names were listed thereon were possible subjects for Internal Security cases. Captain Hartman was requested to check these names against his indices at the Metropolitan Police Department, after which he would make a comprehensive report to the Washington field office of any information secured about any of the individuals named. As a result, over a period of six to

RECEIVED-LADD

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COPIES DESTROYED
RECEIVED
CH-18

Mr. Ladd

- 2-



eight weeks and possibly longer, Hartman furnished a wealth of information to the Washington field office regarding these individuals, and various internal security cases were opened. The information received from Hartman was not placed in the Washington Committee for Democratic Action file, but rather was placed in the individual internal security cases. Mr. Dawsey explained that Captain Hartman's men checked these names against the police indices from time to time, as they had an opportunity, which explained the reason for taking a number of weeks to check all of the names.

Several weeks after Captain Hartman first started to furnish information on these names, he came up to the Washington field office and appeared to be in a jovial mood. At this time he remarked that several of the names which he was checking for the Washington field office on this list were identical with names he had checked for investigators for G-2. While he did not state in so many words that he knew what these names were, to-wit: a membership list of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, he left that impression. Mr. Dawsey repeated, however, that Captain Hartman did not say he knew it was such a membership list, and he gave no indication that he had ever received such a ~~membership list~~ with knowledge of what the list actually comprised.

Mr. Dawsey stated he does not know whether G-2 had such a membership list or not, but the Washington field office, so far as Dawsey knows, did not furnish any such list to G-2, and in fact this list was furnished to no outside agencies by the Washington field office, although the names were submitted to the other field offices in connection with investigations to be made. Mr. Dawsey also added he did not know whether the Bureau at the Seat of Government may have submitted a copy of this membership list to G-2.

Mr. Dawsey stated that in the event the above information did not entirely answer Mr. Carson's inquiry, it would be necessary to reach him, Dawsey, through the Boston office, since he was just leaving on an official business trip to Canada.

Respectfully,


M. C. Spear 

November 19, 1941

OFM:MJ

100-4590-31

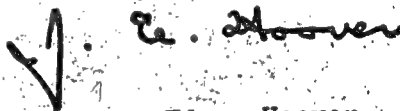
RECORDED

Special Agent in Charge
Washington, D. C.Re: Investigation of Governmental
Employees; Hatch Act.

Dear Sir:

There is transmitted herewith the laboratory report covering the examination of specimens submitted by your office in connection with the above-entitled matter and transmitted by your communication dated November 5, 1941.

Very truly yours,


John Edgar Hoover
DirectorEnclosure 

Mr. Tolson _____
 Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
 Mr. Clegg _____
 Mr. Foxworth _____
 Mr. Glavin _____
 Mr. Ladd _____
 Mr. Nichols _____
 Mr. Rosen _____
 Mr. Carson _____
 Mr. Drayton _____
 Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
 Mr. Hendon _____
 Mr. Tracy _____
 Miss Gandy _____

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED

NOV 25 1941

P. M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

NOT USED

100-4590-33

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100-4590-12



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

CHC:PMcG

October 23, 1941

10:15 p.m.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. D. M. LADD

I telephonically contacted Special Agent West, Number One Man of the Boston Office, relative to the report that the Dies Committee received a list of the members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action from Captain Earl P. Hartman of the Washington Police Department.

It was explained to Mr. West that Hartman claims to have been given this list of members by the FBI. I instructed West to have Special Agent T. W. Dawsey, formerly assigned to the Washington Field Office, contact me in the morning and give any information he might have as to how Hartman received the list of members.

Respectfully,

CHC

C. H. Carson

RECORDED

INDEXED

100-4590-34

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
OCT 31 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LADD

CH-18²¹⁷

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
F B I
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OCT 31 3 10 PM '41

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Your Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Boehm _____
Miss Gandy _____

*The answer was
sent in this A.M.
10/24 - R.P.K.*

61-7582-1025

NOT USED

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M

CHANGED TO

100-262573-13



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

October 22, 1941
12:10 P. M.

CHC:LL

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR
DEMOCRATIC ACTION LIST

In accordance with my telephonic inquiry, SAC McKee, Washington Field Office, advised that the Washington Field Office file does not indicate that a copy of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action list was furnished to Captain Earl P. Hartman by the Washington Field Office. Mr. McKee further advised that Agent M. J. Connolly, who has been working on the matter continuously, has not heard that this was done. Mr. McKee said that this list was obtained by Agent Dawsey, formerly of the Washington Field Office and now of the Boston office, from a highly confidential source, and it was agreed that I would contact Agent Dawsey in the above regard.

Respectfully,

C. H. Carson
C. H. Carson

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Drayton _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Tour Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Handwritten signature/initials

CH-20

RECORDED

100-4590-36
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
8 NOV 10 1941
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
LADD
FIVE

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OCT 27 1941



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

DML:WGR

October 29, 1941

5:15 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. E. W. Tamm

I telephonically inquired of SAC McKee of the Washington Field Office as to why the memorandum which he was going to prepare on the contacts had between Special Agent Dawsey and Captain Hartman of the Metropolitan Police Department relative to the list of members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action had not been received.

Mr. McKee stated that he had the memorandum two-thirds dictated last night when the telephone "went crazy and stayed crazy".

I told McKee to get this memorandum to the Bureau as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

D. M. Ladd

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Tour Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

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INDEXED

100-4590-38

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

6 NOV 19 1941

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FILE

Serial - 37-
Missing from
file - 3-26-58
R-42

CH-23

**Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice**

Post Office Box #2344
Boston, Massachusetts

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

October 24, 1941

AIR MAIL - SPECIAL DELIVERY

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Attention: Mr. C. H. Carson

Re: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION;
Internal Security - C

Dear Sir:

This is to confirm the telephonic information furnished to Mr. M. C. Spear of the Bureau after an attempt to contact Mr. CARSON, who had requested that Special Agent T. W. DAWSEY of this office contact him with reference to allegations made by an investigator of the House Committee to the effect that he had obtained a list of the members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action from Captain EARL P. HARTMAN of the Special Investigations Division of the Metropolitan Police Department, and that Captain HARTMAN had advised that he in turn had obtained the list from the FBI.

Agent DAWSEY advised Mr. SPEAR of the Bureau that a few days subsequent to obtaining the membership list of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action from a confidential informant and placing the same into report form, the question arose as to the advisability of having an Agent of the Washington Field Office check this list against the subversive files of the Metropolitan Police Department, which files were known to contain a wealth of information about local radicals.

This matter was discussed with former Special Agent in Charge GUY HOTTEL, and it was decided to try to get Captain HARTMAN to check the names against his files and submit to the Washington Field Office any information in his files so that individual cases could be opened on those who had previously been exceptionally active in various radical movements. Captain HARTMAN was requested to do this due to the personnel shortage in the Washington Field Office at that time.

Captain HARTMAN was contacted and called to the Washington Field Office, where he was informed that the Washington Field Office had a long list of suspected radicals whom they desired to have checked against his subversive files. Captain HARTMAN was not informed as to the identity of the list. He consented to have the check made and to submit reports on the individuals. Prior to Captain HARTMAN's arrival

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NOV 12 1941
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
CARSON
FIVE
PERS. FILES

Director

10-24-41

at the Washington Field Office, an extra mimeographed copy of the report containing the list of names of the members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action was torn apart and the list was removed therefrom and all identifying information was cut off the pages, leaving only the names and addresses. The remaining portion of the extra copy of the report was destroyed. This procedure presented the necessity of retyping this exceptionally long list of names.

The list was turned over to Captain HARTMAN, who, over a period of several months thereafter, furnished information to the Washington Field Office on various individuals appearing thereon. As to whatever became of the unidentified list of names furnished to Captain HARTMAN, Agent DAWSEY does not know. Agent DAWSEY advised that he does not know if the identity of the list was ever furnished to Captain HARTMAN, who at that time was in charge of the Special Investigation Division of the Metropolitan Police Department and who was working very closely with the Washington Field Office in connection with subversive matters.

Agent DAWSEY advised that he does recall that on one occasion several weeks after instant list was furnished to Captain HARTMAN, Captain HARTMAN advised that he had received a request from Investigators of G-2 to check several of the names that appeared on instant list. At the time Captain HARTMAN made the statement he possessed an unusual smile, and it is not known if he could have obtained this information through G-2. G-2 was not furnished copies of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action report by the Washington Field Office.

Agent DAWSEY further advises that due to the exceptionally close working arrangement that was in existence between the Washington Field Office and Captain HARTMAN, it may have been possible for him to obtain the identity of the list by sheer deduction.

It may further be stated that at no time did it come to the attention of Agent DAWSEY that this list was turned over to the Dies Committee Investigators.

The facts surrounding the submission of the list of names referred to above was not reported in the Washington Committee for Democratic Action case in view of the fact that the investigations contemplated were in connection with the individuals and not the organization.

Very truly yours,



V. W. PETERSON
Special Agent in Charge

TWA/jf

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice

EWT:MAL

Washington, D. C.

November 1, 1941

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Drayton _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Tour Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

Ea. Ladd
MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Reference is made to my memorandum dated October 22, 1941, concerning the statements made by the Dies Committee representatives to the effect that they had obtained the "membership list" of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action from the Washington, D. C., Police Department which Agency had in turn obtained this list from the FBI.

Special Agent T. W. Dawsey of the Boston Field Division has advised that a few days subsequent to obtaining this list the question arose as to having the list checked against the subversive files of the Metropolitan Police Department. Former Special Agent in Charge, Guy Hottel, decided to have Captain Hartman check the names against his files and submit to the Washington Field Office any information on the persons mentioned in the list. He stated that this action was taken because of the personnel shortage in the Washington Field Office at that time which made undesirable the assigning of an Agent to handling this check.

Special Agent Dawsey stated that Captain Hartman was not informed as to the identity of the list and was furnished an extra mimeographed copy which contained no identifying data. Agent Dawsey advised that he did not know if Captain Hartman was ever told the exact identity of this list although he does recall that Hartman had received a request from Investigators for G-2 to check several of the names that appeared on the list and may have determined the exact identity by sheer deduction.

Special Agent Dawsey advised that he had no information indicating that this list had ever been furnished to the Dies Committee by Captain Hartman.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd
D. M. Ladd

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100-4590-370
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

NOV 12 1941

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

CH-20



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

EAT:GEG

November 4, 1941

Time: 3:07 P.M.

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

In connection with the Bureau's investigation of the allegation of Congressman Martin Dies that his committee had obtained a membership list of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action from the Metropolitan Police Department which, in turn, had received its list from the FBI, SAC McKee telephonically advised that he had talked with Captain Hartman concerning this matter. Hartman was unable to recall any specific list by name but did recall a thick, mimeographed list of names which was obtained from Agent Dawsey. Hartman was unable to recall how Dawsey identified the list by name, but when Mr. McKee suggested the names of several front organizations Hartman indicated a belief that the list was identified by Dawsey as having to do with the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

Hartman stated he has never given any list to the Dies Committee and does not know Stripling, of the Dies Committee, personally although he has talked with Stripling over the telephone. Hartman indicated, however, that following a contact with the Dies Committee by Hawley (phonetic) of the Police Department Public Relations Squad who formerly worked under Hartman, Mary Spargo (phonetic), an investigator of the Dies Committee, with several typists from the Committee worked in Hartman's Office for several days last February or March.

I told McKee to advise Hartman that Dies has made the statement that the list of the Dies Committee came from the Metropolitan Police Department. McKee stated Hartman was taking a little time to think the matter over and would call him later today at which time Hartman would be advised of Dies' statement. Following Hartman's call, McKee will prepare a memorandum incorporating the statements of Hartman and will furnish this memorandum to the Bureau immediately.

Mr. McKee stated he believed it would be desirable to again contact the Dies Committee with a request to be shown the original list from which the Bureau's photostat was prepared in order to inquire of Hawley of the Metropolitan Police whether he gave the list to the Dies Committee. I told him to take these lines until you have approved in which event he will be advised to proceed.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

Respectfully,

Edward A. Tamm

CH-180

WHP:KSM
97-84

Washington, D. C.
December 1, 1941

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: GEORGE SYLVESTER VIERCKE
with aliases;
REGISTRATION ACT

Dear Sir:

There are transmitted herewith two photostatic copies of a partial list of individuals attending a meeting of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action held on June 27, 1940, at Washington, D. C.

It will be noted that the name, PRESCOTT DENNETT, Bond Bldg., telephone ME-3553, appears as the first name on the page. The name of SIM A. E. GALE, 425 Bond Bldg., telephone ME-3553 (Treas. and Sec. MAKE EUROPE PAY WAR DEBTS COMMITTEE) appears on the next line. Both DENNETT and GALE gave the Bond Building as their address and both gave the same telephone number.

The list of individuals attending this particular meeting was obtained through the cooperation of [REDACTED] FOIA(b)(7) - (D) as noted on page 2 of the report of Special Agent T. W. Dawsey, Washington, D. C., January 21, 1941, entitled: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION; INTERNAL SECURITY - C. Special Agent Dawsey's report also states that the names appearing on the list were presumably written by the individuals attending, and further that the check marks in the two right-hand columns indicated whether the person was a member or a guest. DENNETT and GALE are listed as guests.

This information is being furnished the Bureau for such assistance as is possible in instant case. The negative from which the photostatic copy was made is available in the Washington Field Office file under Exhibit 90 of photographs pertaining to the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

Very truly yours,

RECORDED
INDEXED

S. K. McKEE

Special Agent in Charge DEC 3 1941

FEDER.

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

INITIALS ON

ORIGINAL - 12

Enclosures (2)

cc New York

ORIGINAL FILED IN 97-391-280

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT **DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

DETROIT FILE NO. **100-3511**

REPORT MADE AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN	DATE WHEN MADE 12/9/41	PERIOD FOR WHICH MADE 10/10/41	REPORT MADE BY WALTER L. OBLINGER
TITLE WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION			CHARACTER OF CASE INTERNAL SECURITY - C; HATCH ACT.

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

FOIA(b)(7)-(D) and other highly confidential sources, files of Detroit Office, Miss S. HARDING, state of Michigan Corporation & Securities Commission fail to reveal that the Washington Committee for Democratic Action is active or even known in Detroit area.

- C -

REFERENCE:

Bureau teletype to all Field Divisions dated September 11, 1941, Bureau file entitled "Investigation of Government Employees, Internal Security - Hatch Act."

DETAILS:

AT DETROIT, MICHIGAN:

This investigation was predicated upon receipt of reference teletype requesting that an investigation be immediately conducted to obtain the membership list and ascertain the identities of any Government employees who are members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

A thorough search of the indices of the Detroit Field Division fails to reveal that this organization is known to this office.

On October 10, 1941,

FOIA(b)(7)-(D)

APPROVED AND FORWARDED: <i>John A. Bugas</i> SPECIAL AGENT IN CHARGE	DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES <div style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold; text-align: center;">100-4590-43</div>	
COPIES OF THIS REPORT ⑤ - Bureau 2 - Detroit	DEC 11 1941	RECORDED INDEXED

23 FEB 12 1942

(Detroit file 100-3511)

whose identity is known to the Bureau was contacted and he informed that this organization was unknown to him and, to his knowledge, was not active in the Detroit area.

Highly confidential sources and confidential informants of the Detroit Field Division fail to reveal that the Washington Committee for Democratic Action is active, or even known in the Detroit area.

Miss S. HARDING, Clerk, Michigan Corporation and Securities Commission, 1390 National Bank Building, upon checking her indices, informed that this committee is not registered with the State of Michigan.

***** C L O S E D *****

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100-4590-44

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100-262573-15

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington Field Division, 1437 K St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

MJC:KL

January 26, 1942

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that on the morning of January 26, 1942 Officer JOHN LAYTON of the Public Relations Squad, Metropolitan Police Department, Washington, D. C., telephonically contacted Special Agent M. J. CONNOLLY of this Office and inquired of that Agent whether the mimeographed list of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, which he believed was given by this Office to Lieutenant HARTMAN, was a membership or a mailing list.

LAYTON stated that HARRY DOBBS, an investigator for the Office of Naval Intelligence, had asked him on this date whether or not the information that the Dies Committee had in their possession concerning the list of individuals which that Committee had listed as connected with the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, were members or whether it was merely a mailing list, due to the fact that the investigator felt that there was a great difference between being a member and being on a mailing list.

The Bureau was advised on January 24, 1942 that ELDON HAWLEY had called this Office and spoke to Special Agent M. J. CONNOLLY and requested the same information and he was referred to the Bureau.

During the course of the conversation had with Officer LAYTON, he stated that the Public Relations Division had in its file a mimeographed list made up of approximately one hundred pages entitled "The Washington Committee for Democratic Action". Agent CONNOLLY stated to LAYTON that

Mr. Tolson
Mr. E. A. Tamm
Mr. Clegg
Mr. Glavin
Mr. Ladd
Mr. Nichols
Mr. Tracy
Mr. Rosen
Mr. Carson
Mr. Coffey
Mr. Hendon
Mr. Holloman
Mr. Quinn Tamm
Mr. Nease
Miss Gandy
Files

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EX-2

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100-4590-45
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

4 JAN 27 1942

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

COPY IN FILE

Director
MJC:KL
January 26, 1942

several months ago inquiry was made at the Public Relations Squad at which time they advised that they did not have in their possession the mimeographed list which the Metropolitan Police Department, Public Relations Squad, stated was received from this Office. LAYTON advised that the index maintained by the Metropolitan Police Department is broken down into one for individuals and one for organizations, and furthermore that he had found the index cards relative to this list as being filed under the individual index rather than the index maintained for organizations.

LAYTON was advised that any information relative to the list mentioned above should be obtained from the Bureau, and the above conversation had with that Officer is being forwarded to the Bureau for its information.

Very truly yours,



S. K. McKEE
Special Agent in Charge

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington Field Division, 1437 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

MJC:KL

January 24, 1942

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

Please be advised that on the afternoon of January 24, 1942 this Office received a telephone call from ELDON HAWLEY, formerly a Metropolitan Police Department Officer assigned to the Public Relations Squad under Lieutenant EARL P. HARTMAN, and who upon leaving the Public Relations Squad was assigned to the United States Attorney's Office and is now on active duty with the Office of Naval Intelligence at the Navy Yard in Washington, D. C.

Mr. HAWLEY contacted Special Agent M. J. CONNOLLY of this Office and inquired of him whether or not the list of names which is in the possession of the Metropolitan Police Department and the Dies Committee relative to the case entitled "Washington Committee for Democratic Action" was a membership list or a mailing list. The Agent questioned HAWLEY as to what list he was endeavoring to identify, and the following conversation took place:

HAWLEY stated that the list in question was, "you remember the list that your Office furnished to the 'Brains' (HAWLEY has referred to the 'Brains' before and it is known that this is the name he applied to Lieutenant HARTMAN under whom he formerly worked) and the 'Brains' gave it to me and I took it to STRIPLING at the Dies Committee where he made copies and cards of the same, and then I took the list back to the 'Brains' along with the

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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

FILED
McIntosh

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. E. A. Tamm	
Mr. Clegg	
Mr. Glavin	
Mr. Ladd	
Mr. Nichols	
Mr. Tracy	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Carson	
Mr. Coffey	
Mr. Hendon	
Mr. Holloman	
Mr. Quinn Tamm	
Mr. Nease	
Miss Gandy	
Files	<i>[Signature]</i>

Director

MJC:KL

January 24, 1942

"list of the Washington Book Shop, which was given to your Office and which was secured from the Dies Committee."

HAWLEY stated that the purpose of his inquiry was due to the fact that an investigator at the Navy Department during the investigation of an individual by the name of ~~FOX~~, who is employed at the Navy Yard, stated his name appeared on the list of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action both at the Metropolitan Police Department and at the Committee and he said, "I would like to know whether or not it is a membership list or an active mailing list, due to the fact that there is a great difference in the two." Agent CONNOLLY advised him that he was unable to furnish him with any information relative to this matter, at which time Mr. HAWLEY stated that he believed the best thing to do would be to contact Mr. THURSTON or some other individual at the Department.

Very truly yours,



S. K. MCKEE
Special Agent in Charge

RECORDED

CCM:lem

100-4590-47

~~100-1170-171~~

February 20, 1942

Special Agent in Charge
Washington, D. C.

RE: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

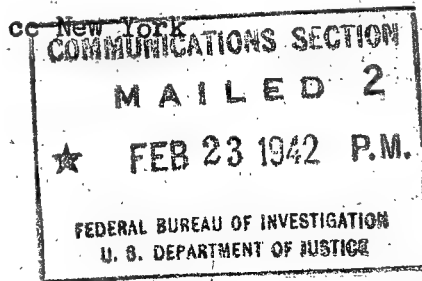
Dear Sir:

Reference is made to the New York letter dated January 26, 1942, in the above entitled matter, a copy of which was received by your office, instructing that your office report all subsequent investigation concerning the subject organization under the title of the NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES.

It is not the Bureau's desire that this procedure be placed in effect. The Washington Field Office should, as in the past, report all investigation in the above-mentioned groups in separate investigative reports.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover
Director



RECEIVED - NEW YORK
FEB 23 11 42 AM '42

24 MAR 4 1942

- Mr. Tolson _____
- Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
- Mr. Clegg _____
- Mr. Glavin _____
- Mr. Ladd _____
- Mr. Nichols _____
- Mr. Tracy _____
- Mr. Rosen _____
- Mr. Carson _____
- Mr. Coffey _____
- Mr. Hendon _____
- Mr. Holloman _____
- Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
- Mr. Nease _____
- Miss Gandy _____

RECORDED COPY FILED IN 100-1190-171

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

RAS:EK
100-4129

January 26, 1942

in
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR
DEMOCRATIC ACTION;
INTERNAL SECURITY (C)

Dear Sir:

A review of the file in the above captioned case reflects that the WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION is the Washington, D. C. Chapter of the National Federation of Constitutional Liberties.

The file further reflects that the WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION is not active anywhere in the United States, except at Washington, D. C., and there is no advantage in having a separate file on the WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION. Therefore, this case is being closed in the New York Office.

However, the Washington Field Division is requested that, in the event they develop any further information concerning the WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION, they report same under the title of NATIONAL FEDERATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES.

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth
P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director.

*all work
cc - [unclear]
[unclear]*
2 C.C. Washington
2 C.C. New York 100-3645

EX - 19 RECORDED

100-4590-47
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
14 FEB 3 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
[Signature]

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100-4590-48

m
CHANGED TO
100-262573-16

RECORDED

100-4590-49
EHW:rmb

April 6, 1942

Special Agent in Charge
New York, New York

Re: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR
DEMOCRATIC ACTION
INTERNAL SECURITY--C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to your letter of March 27, 1942
requesting that the division of origin be changed in the above en-
titled case.

You are hereby authorized to designate Washington, D.C.
as the division of origin.

Upon receipt of this communication, you are requested to
carefully check your file and make certain that the new division of
origin has all serials in the case containing important data.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover
Director

CC--Washington, D.C.

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

MAILED 1

★ APR 6 1942 P.M.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Gandy _____

75 APR 13 1942

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

100-4129
HOB:EK

March 27, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

RE: ⁰ WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

A review of the New York file of the above captioned organization reflects that the WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION is the Washington, D. C. Chapter of the NATIONAL FEDERATION FOR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES, and that its activities are restricted to Washington, D. C. It is further noted that the Washington Field Office has conducted a complete investigation concerning this organization.

In view of this information, it is requested that the office of origin be changed from New York to Washington Field Office.

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth
P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

C.C. Washington Field

COPIES DESTROYED
3-26-58
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FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION	
15	MAR 30 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE	

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CHANGED TO

100-262573-17+18

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
New York, New York

100-4129
HOB:MM

April 28, 1942

Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D. C.

Re: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau letter dated April 6, 1942, changing the office of origin in the above captioned matter from New York to the Washington Field Office.

An appropriate review of the New York files has been made, which reflects that the Washington Field Office has all serials of this case, with the exception of the report of Special Agent A. J. RAFFERTY, dated at Omaha, September 18, 1941, which is being enclosed herewith to the Washington Field Office.

The New York Field Office is, therefore, considering this case referred upon completion to the office of origin.

Very truly yours,

P. E. Foxworth

P. E. FOXWORTH
Assistant Director

CC - Washington Field (Enc.)

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100-4590-52
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
9 APR 29 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
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MAY 6 1942

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CHANGED TO

100-262573-19420

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

DML:PC
Received: 3:15 PM
Transcribed: 4:45 PM

May 1, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. K. MUMFORD

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

The Secretary to Mr. Ugo Carusi called me at this time and advised that Mr. Robert Maurer, who is connected with the District of Columbia Public Schools, was in to see Mr. Carusi and brought in a list of 19 people, which list he would like to have checked to see if these people are members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. She advised that Mr. Carusi would like for a check to be made.

I told her that it would take us a couple of days to check this list, but that we would be glad to do it. I told her to send the list to my office and we would route it back to her when we have made the check.

Very truly yours,

D. M. Ladd
D. M. Ladd

COPY IN FILE

RECORDED
&
INDEXED

100-4590-55
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
10 MAY 6 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

File

Dies Charges Justice Dept. Shields 'Red Front' Members

Names 19 on U. S. Pay Rolls Who Are Linked to Groups Branded Communist

By WILLIAM STRAND

Representative Martin Dies (D.) of Texas, chairman of House Committee on un-American Activities, replied yesterday to recent smear attacks aimed at himself and his committee by high Administration officials and organizations branded at subversive.

He charged, among other things that the Department of Justice has deliberately avoided reporting or taking any action against Government employees belonging to organizations which the department itself regards as a Communist front.

Gives List of Names

Dies gave the House the names of 19 payrollers who are members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, a subsidiary of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties. These organizations, he disclosed, were described by Biddle in a confidential memorandum recently as "Communist controlled and Communist dominated. Both groups have long been on the Dies Committee blacklist, records show."

The broad-shouldered Texan also introduced an amazing report showing that a large part of the funds with which Communist Front organizations are financed are derived from the estate of a well-known New York lawyer, who rose to wealth and prominence before the bar a generation ago. He was the late Louis Marshall, whose son, Robert, died within the last few years leaving an estate of \$1,534,070, largely inherited from his father.

Under Robert Marshall's will, the report explained, one-half the estate was set aside for "the promotion and advancement of an economic system in the United States based upon the theory of production for use and not for profit."

Foundation Established

This money was used, the Dies committee found, to establish the Robert Marshall Foundation, which has been a contributor to various Communist-dominated groups.

The report lists 16 of these organizations, including the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, and the amounts they have received since early in 1941.

Total contributions of \$87,425 are shown, the two largest amounts having been \$22,500 given to the Farmers Educational and Co-operative Union of America and \$14,250 handed over to the Federation for Constitutional Liberties. The link between these and the other beneficiaries of the original Louis Marshall's ability and industry, the report explains, is the American Peace Mobilization, remembered for picketing the White House in an attempt to prevent passage of war preparedness legislation.

Back Aid to Russia

According to the report, members of the Peace Mobilization publicly declared before the German invasion of Russia that they had no preference for an English victory over a Nazi victory. Since the outbreak of war between the Reds and Nazis, however, they have supported all steps designed to aid Russia and her allies.

Dies took the floor of the House to answer attacks in a pamphlet distributed by the Federation for Constitutional Liberties. He spoke for an hour and a half, and at the end received a stirring ovation.

He declared bitterly that attempts are being made to discredit the work of the Committee on un-American Activities by those "who desire a free hand to blacken Congress, intimidate the people and organize innumerable organizations to stir up racial and religious hates."

Survived Probe

It was in replying to the smear of the federation that he disclosed the organization has been stigmatized by Biddle as Communist-dominated, despite which the 19 Federal employees who are members have retained their jobs. The majority of these were on the list of 1,121 payrollers which the committee gave the Department of Justice months ago as being members of subversive organizations and worthy of inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Biddle reported to Congress earlier this month that out of the Dies list only two employees had been dismissed for subversive activities. However, members of the House expressed wonderment yesterday that those named by Dies as members of the Constitutional Liberties Federation and the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, who were on the earlier list, had survived the investigation.

In his memo, naming this organization and 11 others, including the Communist Party, as subversive, Biddle stated:

"Just as membership in the national federation, or its affiliates, includes those sympathetic to the stated aims of the organization, who may or may not be aware of its Communist control, as well as Communist Party members and fellow travelers, so also some members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action may be unaware of Communist control."

"Ample opportunity to observe this affiliation and control has been present, however, throughout

173

Handwritten signature

Wash. Times-Herald

9-25-42

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Page 2
118-NOT RECORDED

INDEXED

Doxey Wilerson, professor of education, Howard University; Morris Watson, Secretary, National Labor Committee against War, American Peace Mobilization, a Communist Front organization; John Davis, alleged Communist and Secretary of the National Negro Congress; and Hugh B. Miller, Chairman, Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

In the Spring of 1941, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action published a booklet entitled, "Witch Hunt, 1941, Hits Government Workers". This booklet attacked investigations made by Governmental Agencies of individuals employed by the Government under the Hatch Act. The following excerpts taken from this booklet reflect the attitude of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action:

"The Washington Committee for Democratic Action is resolved that this Witch Hunt must stop. Its Committee has gone into action in defense of Civil Rights of Government Workers. It has taken the defense of Margaret Osprov November and Julius Schlesinger.

* * * *

"The Committee has prepared to investigate and defend the cases of other Government workers who may be subjected to entrenchment of their basic American rights.

* * * *

"The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties has offered its resources in enlisting Nation-wide support for the protection of the rights of Government Workers.

* * * *

"All individuals and organizations devoted to the preservation of our Democratic Liberties are urged to cooperate."

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

DML:PC
Received: 3:15 PM
Transcribed: 4:45 PM

May 1, 1942

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. J. K. MUMFORD

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. McGuire _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Tele. Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

The Secretary to Mr. Ugo Carusi called me at this time and advised that Mr. Robert Maurer, who is connected with the District of Columbia Public Schools, was in to see Mr. Carusi and brought in a list of 19 people, which list he would like to have checked to see if these people are members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. She advised that Mr. Carusi would like for a check to be made.

I told her that it would take us a couple of days to check this list, but that we would be glad to do it. I told her to send the list to my office and we would route it back to her when we have made the check.

Very truly yours,

D. M. Ladd

COPY IN FILE

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&
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FOR DEFENSE



BUY
UNITED STATES
SAVINGS
BONDS
AND STAMPS

100-4590-55
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
10 MAY 6 1942
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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100-262573-21 + 22



Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

DML:CSH

October 31, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. TAMM

RE: MEMBERSHIP LIST OF
WASHINGTON COMMITTEE
FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

I today talked with Special Agent
T. W. Dawsey and secured from him a statement in
detail with reference to his handling of the compila-
tion of the list of members of the Washington
Committee for Democratic Action. The detailed state-
ment obtained from him is attached hereto.

Respectfully,

D. M. Ladd

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Neenan _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Tour Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Beahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

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Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.
November 1, 1941

Mr. Tolson ☒
Mr. E. A. Tamm ☒
Mr. Clegg ☐
Mr. Glavin ☐
Mr. Ladd ☐
Mr. Nichols ☐
Mr. Tracy ☐
Mr. Rosen ☐
Mr. Carson ☐
Mr. Coffey ☐
Mr. Hendon ☐
Mr. Quinn Tamm ☐
Mr. Holloman ☐
Mr. Harbo ☐
Tele. Room ☐
Tour Room ☐
Mr. Nease ☐
Miss Boehm ☐
Miss Gandy ☐

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR

Attached hereto is a statement addressed to Mr. Ladd by Agent Dawsey.

It will be noted from this statement that although Dawsey denies advising Captain Hartman at the time the list was given to him as to what it was, stating that Hartman indicated he "did not want to know", Dawsey thereafter does a verbal flipflop and states that since he worked very closely with Captain Hartman, he "does not recall having advised him as to the identity of the list", but in the next breath states "it would not be unusual for the writer possibly to have referred to this list at some time as the WCDA list".

You will observe from Dawsey's statement a direct statement that the list of names which was furnished to Captain Hartman was obtained by "taking an extra mimeographed copy of the report and tearing it apart, cutting from the top of the first page of the list the identifying paragraph". Attached hereto is a copy of the report in question and it will be observed from page 99 of this report that the identifying data appears at the bottom of the page of the report preceding the list of names and that consequently there is no identifying paragraph on the top of the first page of the list. When confronted with this, this morning, Dawsey stated that his recollection at the time of making the statement was that he had cut the top off of the page. This fact is cited to indicate the probable inaccuracy of everything that Dawsey says.

It is obvious from a review of the Dies list that it was prepared from pages 100 to 200 of this report. Of course the list furnished to the Bureau has been reorganized by Departments, but the names are identical. My belief is that Dawsey has no real recollection as to what he did in this situation.

COPIES DESTROYED
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R-42

Memo for the Director

-2-

must assume the worst consequently and presume that at some time Dawsey or some other Agent identified the list to Captain Hartman as being the "WCDA" list. It is fantastic to assume that Hartman or some other representative of the Police Department in turning the information over to the Dies Committee would make the same mistake that the Bureau Agents had made in identifying this as the WCDA membership list. The conclusion is inescapable that the information which Hartman furnished to the Dies Committee as to what this list purported to be, must have emanated from Dawsey or some other Agent of the Washington Field Office.

Dawsey by his own implications in this statement is at fault. It appears, however, if he is accurately reporting his conferences with Mr. Hottel, and there is no reason to believe otherwise, that the situations as they developed were discussed with Mr. Hottel and that Mr. Hottel as Agent in Charge made the decisions. For example, on page 2 of Mr. Dawsey's statement, the charge is that when Mr. Hottel was advised of the addition of the names of husbands or wives, he approved that procedure. On the same page of his statement Mr. Dawsey points out that when Hottel was informed that the list contained names other than the membership list, he was instructed that the list be maintained in its erroneous condition upon the grounds that whenever it was necessary to check the accurate membership list, it could be done against the original photographic copy of the index.

Mr. McKee is presently engaged in compiling two lists - one to show the list of names which were actually on the membership rolls and the other those which were arbitrarily added because they appeared in correspondence, etc. There are 516 names of members of the WCDA on the Dies List. 347 of these names appear on the photographic records which were taken of the real WCDA list. The balance of 169 names were arbitrarily added by the Agents as a result of reviews of correspondence, etc.

The original photographic records contain the name of Mrs. Charles Fahy as a member of the WCDA. The name of her husband was arbitrarily added by the Agents.

Respectfully,


Edward A. Tamm



TWD:CSH

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

October 31, 1941

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. LADD

Re: Compilation of list of Washington
Committee for Democratic Action

Sometime during the latter part of November, 1940, the writer, together with Special Agent J. Clark Newsom and one other agent (whose name I do not recall), secured access to the files and records of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, at which time it was decided to photograph the index cards appearing in a 3 x 5 index box labeled "Membership". During the photographing of these cards with a speedgraphic camera by Agent Newsom, the writer was reviewing the files of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, and from time to time came across a piece of correspondence or list of names deemed of value. These were also photographed.

RECORDED

ENCLOSURE

100-4590-58

After obtaining these photographs they were developed and the matter was taken up with SAC Hottel to determine what form the report should follow in connection with this list and also whether a preliminary name check should be made against the city and telephone directories for the purpose of ascertaining the correct address and employment of these individuals. At this time Mr. Hottel instructed that this be done. In view of the size of the task, the question of personnel was discussed with Mr. Hottel, and it was decided that it would be advisable to have these names checked against the city directory and telephone directory by a group of trainees who happened at the time to be assigned to the Washington Field Office. Approximately fifteen trainees were requested to report to the writer during the hours of 8 to 11 p.m., for the purpose of making the city directory check. At the time these photographs were given to the trainees it was explained that they should check the names appearing on the photographed index cards against the city and telephone directories in an effort to obtain the correct employment. The trainees also in certain cases made telephonic inquiries, under pretext, in an effort to obtain information relative to employment. They were also instructed that this check should be positively correct, so that no name would appear on the index cards that was not the correct name originally appearing on the photograph. They were told to be sure there was some positive identification, such as a similar telephone number, similar address, or similar place of employment. It was also explained that there was considerable correspondence in the photographs and that by checking these names against the membership photographs, additional information could be obtained from the correspondence, in view of the fact that from time to time the correspondence would show that the individual was employed by a certain governmental agency.

Mr. Tolson _____
Mr. E. A. Tamm _____
Mr. Clegg _____
Mr. Foxworth _____
Mr. Glavin _____
Mr. Ladd _____
Mr. Nichols _____
Mr. Rosen _____
Mr. Carson _____
Mr. Holloman _____
Mr. Quinn Tamm _____
Mr. Hendon _____
Mr. Coffey _____
Mr. Harbo _____
Tele. Room _____
Tour Room _____
Mr. Nease _____
Mr. Tracy _____
Miss Gahm _____
Miss Gandy _____

COPIES DESTROYED
3-26-58
R-42

This check was completed by the trainees and during the process of checking these names they would from time to time have questions of doubt arising and the same would be discussed with the writer, who was working in an adjoining room. After a name had been completely checked and the correct address and employment obtained, this information was written out on a 3 x 5 index card. At the completion of the entire check the names were arranged alphabetically and turned over to the stenographer to include in the report, the stenographer having previously been given the identifying paragraph to precede this list of names. Subsequent to the completion of this check it was felt that the trainees had handled the matter correctly and the names were not checked back against the original photographs.

Approximately three weeks after the completion of the check, when the report had been compiled, Special Agent Cook of the Washington Field Office happened to be thumbing through the 3 x 5 index card box containing the names copied off by the trainees, and noticed therein the name of his father. This matter was immediately checked and it was determined that the trainee handling this particular name had given a name bearing similar initials, and upon checking the same against the city directory found such a name, with a different address and employment, and had erroneously included this information on the 3 x 5 index card, this information being later included in the report.

The entire list was then checked, at which time it was found that the trainees had also included in this list names that were included in the correspondence. This matter was immediately discussed with Mr. Hottel, who was advised that the report undoubtedly contained several names which were merely mentioned in the correspondence and did not actually appear on the original membership index of the WCDA, whereas the same were set out in the report as appearing in the membership index. At that time Mr. Hottel advised something to the effect that "Well, we have the original photographic copy of the index and if the matter ever arises we can check the names against this original photographic copy", and with this the matter was dropped. It was realized by the writer that this list would contain several names as members, when the individuals were in reality not listed in the membership index, and thereafter all agents in the Washington Field Office were advised that the names appearing in this report should not be referred to as members of the WCDA, but could be referred to as persons whose names appeared in the files and records of that organization.

During the compilation of this list by the trainees, it was found that several of the individuals whose names appeared on the original membership list had either husbands or wives employed in the Government. In the writer's absence this matter was discussed with Mr. Hottel, who advised the trainees that the names of the husbands and wives should also be included, so that during an investigation they would not be overlooked. I later discussed this matter with Mr. Hottel who stated he had advised the men to include these names in the list.

Several weeks after the completion of this report, a discussion was had with Mr. Hottel as to what further investigation was desired in connection with this matter, and during the discussion it was decided that as much information as possible should be obtained on these individuals. Realizing that the special investigative division of the Metropolitan Police Department possessed voluminous files on subversive activities in the District of Columbia, it was deemed advisable to have this list checked against their files, and the question arose as to whether this should be done by a Bureau Agent. Due to the shortage of personnel at that time, it was decided to endeavor to have Captain Hartman's men do this work. Captain Hartman was contacted and was advised that the field office had a long list of names of subversive suspects, the identity of which list could not be furnished him, and it was desired to have these names checked against his files. He consented to have this check made, at which time the list of names appearing in the report of the writer on the WCDA was furnished to him. This list of names was obtained by taking an extra mimeographed copy of the report and tearing it apart, cutting from the top of the first page of the list the identifying paragraph. The list given to Captain Hartman at that time did not contain any statement or notation as to what it was. Captain Hartman was informed by the writer that he could not tell him what it was, to which Captain Hartman replied "I don't want to know".

Subsequent to the delivery of this list to Captain Hartman, Captain Hartman and the writer worked very closely and the writer does not recall having advised Captain Hartman at any time as to the identity of this list. However, it would not be unusual for the writer possibly to have referred to this list at some time as the WCDA list. It is a fact that the names appearing on this list were checked in the Washington Field Office by the Police Department and they might have obtained the fact that these individuals were members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action from some agent who had checked the index card in the field office, the index card of course bearing a notation to the effect that these individuals were listed as members of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. Due to the close working arrangement in existence between Captain Hartman and the Washington Field Office, it would not have been unusual at one time or another for this list to have been referred to casually as the Washington Committee for Democratic Action list, and it is impossible for the writer to state definitely as to how Captain Hartman could have obtained the identity of this list, in view of the fact that there were several possible sources.

At the time the original list was given to Captain Hartman this matter was discussed with Mr. Hottel at great length and it was positively decided that this list should not be identified in any way because at that time neither Captain Hartman nor anyone else had any idea that the Washington Field Office had obtained a photographic copy of the WCDA list and this information was deemed to be highly confidential.

Mr. Ladd has advised me that the photographic copy of this list obtained by the Dies Committee bears a notation at the top of the first page "Washington Committee for Democratic Action". I can definitely state that at the time this list was given to Captain Hartman, it did not contain such identifying name, and I may also state that at no time did Captain Hartman advise me that he had furnished this information to the Dies Committee or to anyone else.

With reference to what may have become of the original list furnished to Captain Hartman, I may state that this list was used by the Metropolitan Police Department over a period of several months and the writer does not know what disposition was ever made of it. It is possibly now in the possession of the special investigative unit of the Metropolitan Police Department.

The question arose several weeks ago relative to the appearance of the names of husbands and wives on this list, when in reality they did not appear on the original membership list. This matter was discussed with Mr. Foxworth and Mr. Timm, and the agents working on governmental employee investigations, at which time they were informed as to the details of the compilation of this list and the agents of the Washington Field Office were specifically instructed that at no time should an individual be referred to in their reports as a member of the WCDA unless his name appeared on the actual photographic copy of the index of that organization. The above matter arose at the time the name of Mr. Charles Fahy was sent over to the Bureau as appearing on the subversive index of the Washington Field Office. After checking this matter it was found that his name was included in view of the fact that his wife was listed as a member of the WCDA, and it was decided that his name should be dropped from the records.

With reference to whether other lists were from time to time turned over to Captain Hartman, it is the writer's recollection (which is very faint) that subsequent to obtaining a list referred to as the "Marian Anderson's Citizenship Committee List", of approximately 3000 names, it was decided that this list, of course from a subversive standpoint, was not of much value due to the fact that it merely consisted of those names appearing on a petition voicing their disagreement with the refusal to permit Marian Anderson to sing at a particular auditorium in the District of Columbia. I believe that this list was furnished to Captain Hartman for his information for only a few days, and I am quite sure that this list was not used by the Metropolitan Police Department in any way, as I recall that Captain Hartman was also of the opinion that it was not of any value. A copy of the above list was forwarded to the Bureau sometime ago.

I may state that I definitely do not recall having at any time given Captain Hartman any other lists obtained by the Washington Field Office.

The question has been asked as to why the WCDA list was given to Captain Hartman and no other list. I may state that at the time the WCDA list was given Captain Hartman, subversive investigations in the Washington Field Office were just beginning and the field office did not have any information whatsoever on subversive activities in the District of Columbia and was anxious to obtain as much information as possible. Subsequent to the submission of this WCDA list to Captain Hartman, it was decided that he would have his men make a detailed check of the entire subversive files of the Metropolitan Police Department and furnish to the Washington Field Office a copy of a summary of such files as appeared to be important. Had not this summary been obtained, other lists would undoubtedly have been furnished to Captain Hartman for similar check, but it was not necessary, due to the submission by Captain Hartman of the many reports on individuals concerning whom the Metropolitan Police Department had obtained definite evidence of an association with Communist ideology.

Respectfully,



T. W. Dawsey

NOT USED

100-4590-59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64, 65, 66 + 67

CHANGED TO

100-262573-23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 + 31

m

JOHN EDGAR HOOVER
DIRECTOR



EHW:PMC

Federal Bureau of Investigation
United States Department of Justice
Washington, D. C.

May 20, 1943

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. WELCH

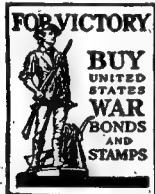
RE: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR
DEMOCRATIC ACTION;
INTERNAL SECURITY - C.

There is submitted herewith a summary memorandum con-
cerning the captioned organization for inclusion in the file on
this matter.

Respectfully,

EHW
E. H. Winterrowd

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3-26-58



Attachment

ENCLO. 11

27 MAY 26 1943

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100-4590-68
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25 MAY 20 1943

CC-287

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. E. A. Tamm	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Glavin	_____
Mr. Ladd	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Carson	_____
Mr. Coffey	_____
Mr. Hendon	_____
Mr. Kramer	_____
Mr. McGuire	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Quinn Tamm	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Nease	_____
Miss Beahm	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

The Washington Committee for Democratic Action is the local branch of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberty and Functions in conjunction with that Organization.

From the minutes of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, it appears the original name of this organization was the Washington Committee for Democratic Rights, which organization is believed identical with the Washington Council for Democratic Rights. This name was just used for several days.

The WCDA is the Washington Chapter of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties, Room 102, Maryland Building, 1410 H Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

It is reported that this organization is an outgrowth of part of the membership of the old American League for Peace and Democracy. A second group formed from the ALPD is known as the American Peace Mobilization. It appears that part of the membership of the ALPD originally formed the Washington Committee for Democratic Rights. The first known meeting was held on February 13, 1940, under the name of the Washington Committee for Democratic Rights.

According to the records of the organization, the following officers presided: Merle D. Vincent, President, attending were the following: Rose Brunswick, Eve Budd, Henry Collins, Daniel Driesen, Edith Halpern, Lucy Hancock and others.

The following information concerning Merle D. Vincent, who, as you noted, presided at the original meeting and has the title of President, was obtained from the files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation:

Merle D. Vincent - During 1938 solicited funds for the assistance of the Communist Party in Spain.

In May, 1940, he was a contributor to the "Quality", a monthly magazine sponsored and supported by the Communist Party of America. On May 1, 1939, Vincent spoke on "The Menace of Fascism" at the May-Day Celebration in Washington, D. C. Other

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persons appearing on the same program were:
Harry Bridges, Lee Pressman and Charles Houston,
who have been reported as being Communists.
This information was obtained from the Daily Worker
dated May 3, 1939.

On February 21, 1940, the name of the organization was changed to the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, which is the present name. At this time it was resolved that two representatives be sent to the Washington Civil Rights Committee to assist that Committee in the introduction of a Civil Rights Bill in Congress. It appears that the original purpose of this organization was to call a meeting in the District of Columbia on the subject of civil rights, and after considerable discussion of the matter as shown in the minutes of the meeting on March 19, 1940, it was decided that the Conference on Civil Liberties was to be held on April 20 and 21, 1940, in the Hall of Nations, Washington Hotel.

On March 26, 1940, the Executive Committee announced that 132 paid members were on record. On March 27, 1940, copies of the tentative program together with a list of sponsors were sent to Dan Tobin, President of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, 222 East Michigan Street, Indianapolis, Indiana; Mr. Michael Quill, President, Transport Workers' Union, 153 West 64th Street, New York City and Miss Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, The Communist Party, 35 East 12th Street, New York City, who were to be the speakers at the Conference on Civil Rights on April 20 and 21, 1940, at Washington, D. C.

The following information is available concerning Michael Quill and Miss Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, who it will be noted are among the speakers at the Conference on Civil Liberties mentioned above:

Michael Quill - It was reported that during the election in the fall of 1937 in the Bronx, New York City, the Communist Party transferred 90% of Isadore Begun's votes to Michael Quill and one other American Labor Party Candidate.

Thomas Humphrey O'Shea, former New York City Communist leader from 1934 to 1938, stated he had directed the Transport Worker's Union for the Communist Party until he was compelled to relinquish the presidency in favor of Michael Quill. It was further reported that the plans

to conduct the union in conformity with the Communist Party lines were taken up at "fractional" meetings attended by Michael Quill. O'Shea stated that Wuill was "literature agent" of a Party section and was also a "unit organizer".

Joseph Zack, former Communist Party Leader, stated that he "knew or had reason to believe" that Quill is a Communist; further that the Communist Party dominates the Transport Workers' Union of America.

Concerning Quill's candidacy for City Council in 1939 in New York, David Dubinsky, President of the Ladies Garment Workers' Union, stated that a vote for Quill was actually a vote "for the Communist Party, for the Stalin-Hitler pact and against Democracy;" that "since Quill is running in behalf of the Communist Party, he is entitled to every Communist vote but by the same token he has no claim on and is not entitled to a single vote of the American Labor Party."

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn - On April 26, 1937, the Daily Worker reflects that Elizabeth Gurley Flynn spoke at a meeting called by the New York State Committee of the Communist Party held at Mecca Temple, New York City. At this meeting she spoke as a member of the Communist Party and stated as one of her reasons for joining the Party was that the Party "has the benefit of collective experience and intelligence of past revolutionary movements and present activities."

The Sunday Worker for October 17, 1937, reflected that she openly admitted joining the Communist Party.

The Daily Worker under date of October 25, 1937, reflects she spoke over Radio Station WMCA on October 24, 1937, at which time she urged the women of New York to vote for the Communist.

The Daily Worker under date of January 14, 1938, reflects that Elizabeth Gurley Flynn is reported as the leading member of the New York State Women's Commission of the Communist Party and that she is also a member of the Central Executive Committee of the Communist Party of America.

Under date of March 22, 1938 the Daily Worker reflects that she is reported to be an instructor in the Workers' School, 35 East Twelfth Street, New York City, (Communist Party Headquarters in New York) during the winter term 1938.

Elizabeth Gurley Flynn was reported in the May 28, 1938 issue of the Daily Worker to have been elected one of the Assistant Secretaries of the Tenth National Convention of the Communist Party of New York City.

The Daily Worker under date of August 1, 1938, listed her as Communist Party Candidate for Congressman-at-Large from New York, 1938.

The "Election Flyer" issued by the New York State Committee Communist Party listed Elizabeth Gurley Flynn as Communist Party candidate for Representative-at-Large from New York in 1940.

The files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reveal Flynn to have been affiliated with the following organizations:

- (1) Executive Committee of the League for Mutual Aid
- (2) American Vigilant Intelligence Federation
- (3) Organizer and Lecturer for the IWW, 1906 to 1916
- (4) Organizer and Lecturer for the American Civil Liberties Union in 1924
- (5) Member of the People's Freedom Union in 1920
- (6) National Chairman International Labor Defense
- (7) National Committee American Civil Liberties Union in 1937
- (8) Member Board of Directors, American Civil Liberties Union, 1940.

A highly confidential informant advised that a copy of a letter dated March 27, 1940, addressed to Merle, who is believed to be Merle D. Vincent, President of the WCDA, advising him of certain action taken in preparation for the Conference on Civil Rights revealed that a representative of the Communist Party had been requested to speak on Civil Rights. This letter, which bore the return address of 2010 O Street, Washington, D. C., was dated on March 27, 1940, was unsigned and indicated that Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, The Communist Party, 35 East 12th Street, New York City, was to be a speaker at the above-mentioned Conference.

The Executive Committee of the WCDA was extremely interested in getting Congressman Vito Marcantonio to act as Chairman of the Conference on Civil Rights, and a tentative draft of a letter with a notation "sent by Merle Vincent" sets forth the fact that this meeting was being held while Congress is in session for the purpose of influencing Congress in the provision and extension of democratic rights.

The ostensible policy of the WCDA as manifested in a form letter which was sent out on April 3, 1940, entitled, "Conference on Civil Rights" reflected that special topics will include civil rights and labor, rights of Negroes and the rights of the national and civil minority groups, et cetera.

The following letter is indicative of the cooperation between the WCDA and the Communist Party:

"April 10, 1940.

Miss Elizabeth Gurley Flynn
The Communist Party
35 East 12th Street
New York, New York

My dear Miss Flynn:

I was delighted to learn that you would be one of the Speakers at the Conference on Civil Rights to be held in Washington, D. C., on April 20 and 21.

I am enclosing a copy of the Call to the Conference. You will see that the session at which you are to speak, Civil Rights and Minority Groups, takes place on Sunday, April 21, from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00. My understanding is that you wish to speak on the subject 'Civil Rights'. This will be entirely satisfactory to us.

Looking forward to the pleasure of seeing you at the Conference, I am

Sincerely yours,

(s) Merle D. Vincent
President"

As indicative of the activities of this Organization there is set out herein a resume of the action taken concerning one Laurent Frantz, who has been reliably reported as being a member of the Communist Party and one of the more radical elements of the Party. Mr. Frantz made the following statement:

"I am a licensed Attorney and have been practicing law for three years in Birmingham, Alabama. I was employed by Mr. Hull, State Secretary of the Communist Party, to secure information on election requirements so that the Communist Party could place its candidates for President and Vice-President. Most of my work was done in the Birmingham Law Library."

Mr. Frantz further stated that he had been unjustly incarcerated because he refused to furnish information concerning the whereabouts of Mr. Hull to a United States Deputy Marshal and a city detective who attempted to serve a subpoena on him. He claimed that he was held at the Birmingham jail for 48 hours incommunicado.

The WCDA apparently took action in this instance, as evidenced by a letter dated June 14, 1940, which Frantz addressed to Mr. Harry C. Lamberton, Chairman, Legal Committee, WCDA, from which the following excerpt is noted:

"I am very much pleased with the favorable report regarding the attitude of the Civil Liberties Unit in this matter and very grateful to your organization for its activities in the case."

It was reported that the Conference on Civil Rights was held on April 20 and 21, 1940, at the Hotel Washington and was attended by many known Communists and practically every Communist Front Organization was represented at the meeting. The press release issued for the meeting reflects that among others in attendance were representatives of the following organizations: Washington Youth Council, League of Women Shoppers, American Federation of Teachers, National Negro Congress and

the Workers' Alliance of America.

At the above Conference the following resolutions and proposals were discussed as indicated below:

- (1) The Wagner Act was approved.
- (2) A Bill providing for Industrial Mobilization was opposed.
- (3) The Anti-Trust Prosecution of Labor Unions was opposed.
- (4) The Wages and Hour Bill was favorable reported.
- (5) The American Civil Liberties Union was opposed for its stand in upholding the rights of strikebreakers.
- (6) A proposal opposing the maintenance of a card index system described before a House Committee by J. Edgar Hoover was said to be "clearly an unjustifiable assumption of power not authorized by law, and is tantamount to a plot against the peace and security of the American people."

It was said at the Conference in connection with the Civil Rights and Minority Groups that:

"The right of political parties to present their programs and place their candidates on the ballot guarantees that the people have real freedom of choice at election time. There is at present a campaign to deprive the Communist Party of its right to set forth its program, place its candidates before the people, and preserve secrecy of the ballot for its supporters. This campaign puts the rights of all minority parties in jeopardy and thereby endangers freedom of political expression."

In furtherance of these resolutions, the following program was adopted:

1. That no emergency in peace or war can justify the abrogation of the rights of minorities exercising freedom of thought or action within the law.
2. The racial and religious intolerance as practiced by the K.K.K., the Silver Shirts, the Christian Front and the Coughlinites, have no place in American life.
3. That the flood of anti-alien and anti-foreign born Bills now pending in Congress threaten the rights

of citizens as well as of aliens and must be defeated.

4. That the right of political minorities to use all legal methods employed by the two major parties to campaign for candidates and platforms be protected by the appropriate Government Authorities.
5. To make the fight of the Negro people for freedom from prosecution and discrimination, in opposing anti-lynching, poll tax and similar laws.

A careful perusal of the above program reflects that each item is also contained in the 1940 Election Program of the Communist Party of America.

On April 30, 1940, the following letter was addressed to Miss Elizabeth Gurley Flynn of the Communist Party:

"April 30, 1940.

Miss Elizabeth Gurley Flynn
The Communist Party
35 East 12th Street
New York, New York

My dear Miss Flynn:

I am enclosing a money order for \$10.00 in payment of your transportation from New York to Washington and return, in connection with the Conference on Civil Rights held in this city on April 20, and 21.

Sincerely yours,

(s) Alice Barrows
Organizing Committee"

Enclosure

It may be stated that investigation has failed to reflect any evidence that the expense of any individual other than Miss Flynn were paid by the WCDA.

Among the persons prominent at this meeting was Sarah V. Montgomery, who is a leading figure in the American Peace Mobilization and is associated with numerous Front Organizations in Washington, D. C.

The files of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reflect that Mrs. Montgomery claims membership with the Communist Party and professes complete accord with its principles. According to a confidential informant who is reported to be active in assuming the direction of many apparently innocuous activities where large gatherings and groups are assembled. She is said to undertake such activities on behalf of the "Party". The informant also advised that she publicly tendered a written resignation to the Party but is reported to have said that the resignation was only a camouflage for her true activities.

On June 17, 1940, the Executive Committee of the WCDA approved the program of action for 1940-41, which program is in part as follows:

"The activities of the Dies Committee and the FBI constitute a threat to minority groups, therefore we demand:

1. That the Dies Committee be abolished.
2. That the Federal Bureau of Investigation cease its illegal terrorization of the American citizens, restrict its functions to those prescribed by law and instruct the Civil Liberties Unit to prosecute more vigorously violations of the law as practiced by the Klu Klux Klan, the Associated Farmers, and other vigilante gangs.

It was decided that members of the Minorities Committee should meet with the National Negro Congress to work out procedure, et cetera, and that Miss Bertha Blair should report to the membership and write letters to the Press endorsed by the membership.

It was further decided to draw up resolutions concerning Harry Bridges and anti-alien Bills in order that they could be available for immediate use.

The action was taken as subsequently reported in the Washington Evening Star.

Under date of July 1, 1940, the Executive Committee held a meeting wherein it was stated that a letter had been received from Mr. Martin Chancey, Executive Secretary of the District of Columbia Communist Party, to the effect that the Communist Party had been refused permission for meetings and that a large number of police attended their meetings intimidating those who attended. An excerpt from this letter is quoted as follows:

"We feel that such behavior on the part of the District Police at a time when strenuous efforts are being made to stir up war hysteria throughout the country is a danger signal of coming repressions that will affect not only the Communist Party but also every labor and progressive organization which dares to speak up today in favor of peace in the world.

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of July 1, 1940, indicate that the Legal Committee was authorized to draw up a letter to Commissioner Hazen and Major Brown stating that the above complaint had been received and asking if the facts were true and explaining that the WCDA was interested, because if true, such policy constitutes an attack on freedom of speech and assembly. It was determined that a letter would be written to the Civil Liberties Committee of the Washington Lawyers Guild in order to arrange cooperation with the WCDA on the question of police brutality.

The WCDA decided at a meeting on July 18, 1941, to start a telephone campaign opposing the deportation of Harry Bridges and asking members to write or wire or see personally various Senators and get other persons to do this also.

It was subsequently noted that a communication was received from Major Brown of the Washington Police Department in reply to a letter sent concerning the refusal to issue permits to the Communist Party to hold meetings at 25 and 26 I Street, et cetra. In answer to this letter, it was contemplated that it should be pointed out that the sentiment of the people of the community is not a proper reason for infringing the freedom of Assembly.

Upon receipt of a complaint from the Communist Party to the effect that the Party had not been permitted to hold street meetings in Washington, D. C., according to the minutes of the organization, it took the following action:

A letter was addressed to the Commissioner of Police alleging that these facts, if true, constituted a violation of the right of freedom of speech and assembly. A reply was reportedly received from the Commissioner stating that licenses for such meetings were issued through the Superintendent of Police and any complaints concerning such matters should be addressed to him. The organization then wrote back to the Commissioner asking that he investigate this matter in order that it could be satisfactorily handled.

This is being mentioned herein only to indicate the activities of the organization on behalf of the Communist Party.

The files of the WCDA contain letters directly from the District headquarters of the District of Columbia Communist Party, District No. 34 of the Communist Party of the United States. They are quoted as follows:

"Official Organ
The Daily Worker

Workers of the World
Units

Communist Party
District of Columbia
District 34, Communist
Party, U.S.A.-
527 9th Street, N. W.
Room 208
Metropolitan 0915

June 29, 1940

Secretary,
Washington Committee for Democratic Action
1653 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I am submitting the following information which you requested over the phone Saturday.

We applied for a permit for the following corners:
(1) 25th and Eye, N. W.; (2) 26th and Eye, N.W.; (3) 23rd and H, N.W.; (4) 24th and H, N.W.; (5) or any other corner that the police might suggest. The time we requested was from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

On the 18th of June we received a reply to our application from Lewis I. H. Edwards, Assistant Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police, which stated that 'you are advised (that) these are heavy traffic streets, for which reason your request must be denied.'

For the past several years we have been granted permits for meetings at 25th and Eye and 26th and Eye, NW., at the same time: 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The most recent instances of open police intimidation at indoor meetings are: (1) Thursday, June 27th, at a small church at 2437 M NW., at a meeting called against police brutality in Georgetown. In an audience of 25 people there were 2 plainclothesmen and three uniformed men standing in front of the door, one of whom was Officer Swanson who is involved in the beating of the three people and who is notorious for his terrorization of West End citizens. They were all taking copious notes, mingled with the audience and ridiculed the meeting. (2) Monday, June 24th, at 1529 Vermont Ave., N.W. At a meeting called against police brutality, six policemen arrived before the meeting started and posted themselves at the entrance while a Scout-car waited in front of the building. The policeman spoke to the landlord and, as a result, the landlord refused to allow us to go on with the meeting, although we had been using this particular hall almost weekly for the past four years. Every person coming into this meeting was interviewed by the policemen and such an atmosphere was created that most of the people departed immediately.

I hope that this information answers your questions satisfactorily. I want to take advantage of this opportunity to thank you for the interest you have displayed in this matter.

Yours sincerely,

(s) Martin Chancey
City Secretary"

Under date of August 6, 1940, Edward Felder of the District Communist Party addressed a letter to the Washington Committee for Democratic Action, setting forth the method of attack against the Police Department in connection with its refusal to grant meeting places, as follows:

"August 6th, 1940"

Communist Party
District of Columbia
District 34, Communist Party, U.S.A.
527 9th Street, N. W.,

Secretary,
Washington Committee for
Democratic Action
1653 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Friends:

We are enclosing for your information copies of a letter submitted to the Board of Commissioners by Martin Chancey, City Secretary of the District Communist Party, and the reply.

From the enclosed communications you can ascertain the facts upon which we base our appeal to the Commissioners for a hearing on the question of police permits for outdoor meetings.

We feel that there are certainly grounds for our conclusion that this refusal to grant permits is part of

a drive to deprive us of our Constitutional liberties. This is confirmed when we note that in the first communication received from the Commissioners the following was the reply: 'I am directed by the Commissioners to inform you that the matter of issuance of these permits was considered by the Commissioners, and they concur in the action taken by the Police Department.' This letter was received on July 26th. On July 30th (copy enclosed), the Commissioners state that they have nothing to do with the matter of permits.

This question involves the civil liberties of a minority political party. Every Washingtonian will be affected if the Police Department is allowed to deal in such an arbitrary manner with minority groups.

We appeal to your organization to consider this question very carefully and inform the District Commissioners of your sentiments on this important matter.

We would appreciate a reply.

Yours very truly,

(s)Edward Felder
District Communist Party"

It is interesting to note that the Communist Party appealed to the WCDA for support before the Commissioners, and the minutes of the WCDA reflect that prompt action was given this matter and a vigorous campaign was carried out in behalf of the Communist Party.

Following are the more recent aims and purposes of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action as taken from a pamphlet published by that organization entitled, "Safeguard the Bill of Rights".

"Defend and extend the rights of labor, farmers and the common people to secure a higher standard of living and to better their social economic life.

"Defend and extend the right of labor to organize and bargain collectively. Defend the Wagner Act.

"Oppose distortion of the Sherman Anti-Trust Law to prosecute labor.

"Oppose nullification of the Wage-hour Law.

"Support the rights of the unemployed to shops and wages that insure a decent standard of

living, and the right to adequate relief if jobs are not provided.

"Support demands of youth for jobs and educational opportunity. Support the American Youth Act.

"Demand equal political, economic, educational, cultural, and social opportunities for the Negro people.

"Support the right of all people--of labor, of the unemployed, of racial and political minority--to freedom of thought, speech and assembly.

"Protect the right of new parties and minority parties to place their candidates on the ballot, and protect the right of citizens to vote as they choose.

"Defend the political rights of the unemployed and their right to organize.

"Oppose restrictions on the civil rights of aliens and the foreign born.

"Defend the right of farmers and consumers to organize to protect themselves.

"Oppose vigorously all anti-Semitic propaganda and acts.

"Stop illegal searches, seizures, and other illegal terrorization of the American people by the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, and other agencies.

"Abolish the Dies Committee.

"Prosecute vigorously all violations of the law by the Ku Klux Klan, the Associated Farmers, and other vigilante groups.

"Support the Wagner-Cavagan Anti-Lynch Bill.

"Put an end to police brutality.

"Demand the full protection of the law for accused persons.

"Oppose the illegal persecution of representatives of labor, of political minorities, of negro and other racial minorities, and of defenders of civil rights.

"Stop the practices of holding prisoners without charge, of imposing excessive bail, of denying rights to consult a counsel and to fair trial by an impartial jury.

"Oppose all restrictions on the right to vote and on the constitutional rights of citizens.

"Outlaw all poll taxes.

"Oppose all attempts to restrict the rights of citizenship of government employees.

"Repel the Hatch Act."

A further reference to the attack on the Dies Committee made by the Washington Committee for Democratic Action. On May 27, 1941, a mock-trial was sponsored by that organization, a fictitious indictment was drawn up for the purposes of this mock trial and in it was charged the following: "We, representatives of ordinary Americans, charge: 1. That the Dies Committee has converted our constitutional rights to freedom of speech, organization, petition and assembly--through smearing, intimidation, and threats--in an attempt to frighten honest people in all walks of life in order to prevent free discussion in this time of great National Emergency. 2. That the Dies Committee has disregarded the traditional right of the accused to defend himself. 3. That the Dies Committee, through its methods and the perversion of its objectives, has become a symbol of those forces driving toward the un-American way of life."

Among those taking part in the mock trial were the following individuals: Rockwell Kent, an alleged Communist; Muriel Draper, an alleged Communist; Leo Huberman, Columnist and author, and alleged Communist; Reverend William B. Spofford; Francis Williams, executive Secretary, American Youth Congress and alleged Communist; Frederick Meyers, reported Communist and National Field organizer of the National Maritime Union; Peter Hawley, United Office and Professional Workers of America; Henrietta Buckmaster, author of "Let My People Go; Jules Yanover, executive Secretary, the Book Shop;

Doxey Wilerson, professor of education, Howard University; Morris Watson, Secretary, National Labor Committee against War, American Peace Mobilization, a Communist Front organization; John Davis, alleged Communist and Secretary of the National Negro Congress; and Hugh B. Miller, Chairman, Washington Committee for Democratic Action.

In the Spring of 1941, the Washington Committee for Democratic Action published a booklet entitled, "Witch Hunt, 1941, Hits Government Workers". This booklet attacked investigations made by Governmental Agencies of individuals employed by the Government under the Hatch Act. The following excerpts taken from this booklet reflect the attitude of the Washington Committee for Democratic Action:

"The Washington Committee for Democratic Action is resolved that this Witch Hunt must stop. Its Committee has gone into action in defense of Civil Rights of Government Workers. It has taken the defense of Margaret Osprov November and Julius Schlesinger.

* * * *

"The Committee has prepared to investigate and defend the cases of other Government workers who may be subjected to entrenchment of their basic American rights.

* * * *

"The National Federation for Constitutional Liberties has offered its resources in enlisting Nation-wide support for the protection of the rights of Government Workers.

* * * *

"All individuals and organizations devoted to the preservation of our Democratic Liberties are urged to cooperate."

100-4590-68X

RECORDED - 43

SAC, Washington Field (66-2168)

August 10, 1953

~~66-137253-28~~
Director, FBI (100-4590)

WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR
DEMOCRATIC ACTION
INTERNAL SECURITY - C

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Reurlet dated July 13, 1953.

The Bureau's copy of SA Dawsey's report dated January 21, 1941, contains a notation in ink to the effect that certain of the information in the report is incorrect and that none of the lists set out in the report should be relied upon without checking with your office. In view of this, the Bureau feels that a symbol number should not be assigned to the information contained in the report and Agents utilizing material found therein should set out clearly the source of the information and should, moreover, be certain that the original information is consulted and used rather than information in the report itself.

GFMc:bh

Tolson _____
Ladd _____
Nichols _____
Belmont _____
Clegg _____
Glavin _____
Harbo _____
Rosen _____
Tracy _____
Gearty _____
Mohr _____
Winterrowd _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Sizoo _____
Miss Gandy _____

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U.S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE
FBI
RECEIVED - CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: July 13, 1953

FROM : SAC, WFO (66-2168)

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE FOR
DEMOCRATIC ACTION DC.
IS - C

CONFIDENTIAL

Mr. Tolson	_____
Mr. Nichols	_____
Mr. Belmont	_____
Mr. Clegg	_____
Mr. Harbo	_____
Mr. Rosen	_____
Mr. Tracy	_____
Mr. Gearty	_____
Mr. Mohr	_____
Mr. Winterrowd	_____
Tele. Room	_____
Mr. Holloman	_____
Mr. Sizoo	_____
Miss Gandy	_____

100-4590-9
Rerep SA T. W. DAWSEY dated January 21, 1941,
at Washington, D. C.

Page 99 of rerep reflects captioned organiza-
tion maintained a 3X5 index card system entitled "Members
List". The information contained in this list is used
on frequent occasions by this office. In the interest
of expediting the reporting of this information it is

FOIA(b)(7) - (D)

Inasmuch as the files of this office do not
reflect the names of the Agents to whom the highly
confidential source made available the photographs, the
Bureau is requested to attempt to determine their identity
from records available at the Seat of Government.

LGH:LEB

Numerous files reviewed
re Wash Com
Index cards for Sen. Ac

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DATE: 10/6/59
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Lab. File destroyed Date: 7/27/59

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original evidence

work sheet

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ENCLOSURE

Evid Retd
by SA, M. J. Connolly to
Wash. F. O.

11-4-41

6¹⁵ P.M.

L-40

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Laboratory Work Sheet

Re:

Investigation of Governmental
Employees
Witch Act.

Lab. #60154

File #100-4590-

Examination requested by: Washington Field

Date of reference communication: 11-4-41

Date blocked:

FBI

Examination requested: Document

Result of Examination:

Examination by:

Specimens submitted for examination

- Q1 One photostatic copy of a list of members of the Washington
Committee for Democratic Action.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
J. I. R. - J

TO : Director, FBI

DATE: July 28, 1955

FROM : SAC, Memphis (100-0)

19804

SUBJECT: WASHINGTON COMMITTEE
FOR DEMOCRATIC ACTION

B.J. 11-1

On July 7, 1955, Mrs. ELI L. OLIVER, 5631 Potomac Avenue, Washington, D. C., was interviewed at the King Cotton Hotel, Memphis, Tennessee, as a reference for JOHN WINSLOW NICKERSON (Memphis file 116-24019), at which time he voluntarily furnished the following information regarding the above-captioned organization, which organization has been declared by the Attorney General under Executive Order 10450.

Mr. OLIVER stated that about four or five years ago he received a list of books and publications from a bookstore which he believed was located on Seventeenth Street near "K" Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., which bookstore featured books and publications of the Communist Party.

Mr. OLIVER advised that he did not know how this bookstore obtained his name. He stated, however, that when he discovered that his wife's name also appeared on the mailing list of this bookstore he made inquiries. He pointed out that his wife's name appeared on this list as NATALIE (CATES) OLIVER and that the only place he knew her name to appear like this was in the book, "Who's Who in Washington." He stated he believed the bookstore obtained a copy of this publication and merely took the names from the book.

According to Mr. OLIVER, while he was employed with the Mutual Security Administration in Washington, D. C., the Security Officer called his attention to this Committee from an investigative report written by the FBI. He stated that at that time he signed a loyalty affidavit and strongly denounced this Committee or any other Committee or front organization which practiced Communist ideologies. He stated that he is strongly opposed to Communist doctrine.

Mr. OLIVER advised that he is head of the Washington, D. C., Office of the Labor Bureau of the Middle West, which office is located at 1001 Connecticut Avenue, N. W., Washington, D. C.

One copy of this communication is being designated for the Washington Field Office in view of the investigation conducted by that Division regarding Mr. ELI L. OLIVER.

RECEIVED - B

RECORDED - 40

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AUG 1 1955

INSEC

EXP. PROC.
AUG 1 1955

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DATE 7/28/55

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NOT USED

100-4590-69, 70, 71

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